



International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Improving lives through impact evaluation



3ie Associate Members' Newsletter January – June 2014

Highlights in this issue

- [Current 3ie funding opportunities](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Project news](#)
 - [Long-term economic benefits of early childhood stimulation](#)
 - [Policy influence story from Peru](#)
 - [Toolkit on how to design a policy influence plan](#)
 - [Launch of the Think Tanks Series by CIPPEC](#)
 - [Socially inclusive healthcare financing in West Africa and India](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)
- [Other funding opportunities](#)
- [Other announcements](#)
- [New associate members](#)

Current 3ie funding opportunities

Replication Window 3: HIV Prevention

This is 3ie's first replication funding window with a specific thematic focus. 3ie invites expressions of interest from researchers to conduct internal replications of impact evaluations of biomedical, behavioural, social and structural HIV prevention interventions. **Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until 23:59 GMT 31 May 2015.** [Read more](#)

Integration of HIV Services Thematic Window

3ie invites proposals from organisations to implement pilot interventions that integrate HIV services with other health services in Sub-Saharan Africa and conduct impact evaluations of these programmes. **Deadline for applications is 23:59 GMT, 15 September 2014.** [Read more](#)

Events

Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College (STC) was accorded consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in May 2014, based on background work

undertaken by the Center for Research and Development (CRD) at STC. CRD promotes research and development activities to build capacity of academia. STC is recognised by more than 20 national and international organisations, including the Planning Commission of India, the Social Welfare Board of India, the UN Global Compact, UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), the Asian Development Bank and USAID.

Promoting research transparency - new curriculum: In June 2014, the Center of Evaluation for Global Action (CEGA) hosted an intensive workshop sharing new tools to increase the transparency and reproducibility of impact evaluations. The programme, to be held annually as part of the [Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences](#), was attended by more than 30 PhD students and junior faculties from eight countries. [Click here](#) to access the curriculum and materials online.

Building markets for small-scale farmers in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa: At a conference in May 2014, the [Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative](#) reported new results from its portfolio of more than 30 randomised evaluations. Managed jointly by CEGA and J-PAL, the initiative has tested a range of financial, behavioural, and management innovations that promote the profitability of small-holder farmers in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Videos from the conference can be watched [here](#).

Improving the measurement of development outcomes: The [Development Impact Lab](#) (DIL) hosted a meeting in Washington, DC in March 2014 highlighting new techniques to reveal consumer demand for new pro-poor services and technologies. DIL is managed jointly by CEGA and the Blum Center for Developing Economies. You can access videos, a white paper, and more [here](#).

Analysing data from the field more efficiently: In partnership with Google.org, CEGA and Innovations for Poverty Action launched the Goldilocks project, an initiative to help NGOs and development enterprises build more efficient, appropriately-sized systems for data analysis. As part of this project, CEGA will work with selected NGOs to merge existing satellite, sensor and mobile data streams with surveys and administrative data. By drawing on recent technological advances, this approach can improve the quality and validity of data, while streamlining data collection in the field.

Strengthening local capacity through impact evaluation workshops in Latin America: Professors Raquel Bernal and Ximena Peña from Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia) and 3ie grantees have conducted eight impact evaluation workshops in Chile, Colombia, Panama and Peru to strengthen local capacity in the region. With financial support from Colciencias (the Colombian National Department for Science, Technology and Innovation), GIZ (a German federal enterprise that supports the German government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development) and the Inter-American Development Bank, the researchers trained over 3,800 regional researchers, policymakers and civil servants in charge of overseeing impact evaluation studies. The workshop in Chile was more in-depth, where 25 researchers participated in an intensive five-day training workshop. Training for both workshops was delivered using an impact evaluation guide for practitioners, *Guía Práctica para la Evaluación de Impacto* co-authored Dr Bernal and Dr Peña. This initiative will contribute to strengthening local capacity and public awareness about the importance of evaluating public initiatives, collecting data and designing programmes with short- and long-term impacts. Read more about the training workshops in [Chile](#) and [Colombia](#).

In May 12-16, 2014, junior researchers from Latin American research centres and members of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) joined a new session of an intermediate impact evaluation course, organised by Grupo de Analisis para el Desarrollo with the support of the Center for Distributive, Labor and Social Studies and TTI. Watch a [short video on the feedback from participants](#) and [view the photo gallery](#).

CIPPEC has been busy: It has delivered four regional conferences, different technical assistance programmes and developed online courses on critical issues for policy influence, reaching more than 190 trainees belonging to more than 40 countries around the world and to 13 research centres around the globe (nine in Latin America and four in Asia and Africa). With continued support from GNet, CIPPEC's resources developed in South have been disseminated in [Latin America](#) and the [Middle East](#).

J-PAL webinar series highlights ongoing and completed evaluations by J-PAL affiliates: J-PAL hosted two webinars in the first half of 2014:

- Karthik Muralidharan (University of California, San Diego) presented findings of his study with co-author Venkatesh Sundararaman (World Bank) on [The Andhra Pradesh, India, School Choice Project](#) in January. See the [event webpage](#) and watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).
- In April, J-PAL affiliate Jens Ludwig (University of Chicago) presented findings of his study with several co-authors on the [Becoming a Man" \(BAM\) and Match-style tutoring program in Chicago in the USA](#). Watch a video of the webinar [here](#).

For information about and recordings of past webinars, and to stay up to date on future webinars, please [visit J-PAL's events page](#).

J-PAL launches online executive education course: On 1 April, J-PAL launched a free, online version of its flagship [executive education course](#). Run via the edX platform—a not-for-profit enterprise founded at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University that offers online learning to on-campus students and to millions of people around the world—[JPAL 101x](#) was a four-week course that provided participants with an introduction to randomised evaluations and pragmatic, step-by-step training for designing one's own evaluation.

As part of its mission to equip practitioners with the expertise to carry out their own rigorous evaluations, J-PAL offers a number of online and in-person courses designed for people from a range of backgrounds. For more information about upcoming courses, click [here](#).

J-PAL Europe, the Alliance for Useful Evidence, and LSE Enterprise collaborate to launch Social Policy Analysis for Robust Knowledge (SPARK) to promote the use of rigorous experiments to test the effectiveness of social policies. [SPARK](#), launched in February 2014, has three main objectives: (1) to organise information sessions and trainings, (2) to provide customised advice to policymakers, practitioners, and researchers, and (3) to create a community of professionals wishing to promote and conduct social policy experimentation in Europe. For more information and details on upcoming events, see the [SPARK Network's events page](#).

J-PAL's Youth Initiative holds events to share evidence, spur new evaluation

partnerships: In the first half of 2014, J-PAL's Youth Initiative collaborated to host two conferences to discuss existing evidence and encourage the development of new evaluations of youth labour market programmes. The first event was a symposium in Doha, Qatar from 6–8 March that brought together policymakers, civil-society groups, and researchers to discuss evidence on effective strategies for increasing youth productivity in the Middle East and North Africa. See the [event webpage](#) for more details.

In June, J-PAL's Youth Initiative collaborated with J-PAL's Post-Primary Education Initiative to host a matchmaking conference in Paris, France to facilitate partnerships between researchers and policymakers. Visit the [conference webpage](#) to learn more about the conference agenda and participants as well as to see presentations by the co-chairs of J-PAL's programmes in education and labour markets.

Project news

Long-term economic benefits of early childhood stimulation: In Jamaica, the 20-year follow-up to a randomised evaluation has found that early childhood stimulation can largely compensate for the early disadvantages associated with poverty. The evaluation report, published by CEGA scientific director Paul Gertler, is available in [Science](#) and through [NPR's Morning Edition](#). The study finds that adults who participated in the Head Start-like programme as toddlers in the 1980s now earn 25 per cent more than those in the comparison group. It suggests that improved parenting skills can largely compensate for stunting and other symptoms of poverty. This is the first experimental evaluation of an early childhood development programme in a developing country, and it suggests a low-cost way to dramatically reduce inequality later in life.

Dialogues between research and public policies, volume 1: New publication entitled *The impact of research in national public policies on ethnicity and social inclusion: the creation of the Technical Inter-institutional Committee on Statistics of Ethnicity in Peru*. [Download](#)

How to design a policy influence plan toolkit: CIPPEC has developed approaches, tools and knowledge inputs to improve planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and research communication skills for a better evidence-based decision making process for think tanks, civil society and public officers. View this toolkit [here](#).

Keeping up with the capacity-building strategy and based on the [lessons learned](#), in 2013, **CIPPEC** launched the *Think Tanks Series*, an original publication in the context of [VIPPAL](#) (linking research with public policies in Latin America) initiative that aims at sharing knowledge and lessons on policy influence and organisational management with think tank executive directors, heads of communications and staff members, experts working on think tanks throughout the world and civil society organisations interested in strengthening their impact. Click on the link to download the first two documents of think tank series ([Promoting a national policy forum: CIPPEC's 'Agenda for the President 2011-2015'](#) and [Mi Galpón: from the local level to the national agenda](#)).

If you would like to contribute to this series in identifying beneficial lessons and stories please get in touch with CIPPEC at vippal@cippec.org.

Socially inclusive healthcare financing in West Africa and India: Health Inc. is a collaborative research project between LSE Health, the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Tata Institute of Social Science in Mumbai, the Centre for Research on Social Policies in Senegal, the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research in Ghana, and the Institute of Public Health in Karnataka. This multi-country research project puts forward the hypothesis that social exclusion is a very important reason for the restricted success of recent health financing reforms in two West African countries (Ghana and Senegal), and two states in India (Maharashtra and Karnataka). The Health Inc. team in Karnataka led by the Institute of Public Health, aimed to identify the individuals and households that have been excluded from accessing the national health insurance scheme, *Rashtriya Swasthya Bhima Yojna (RSBY)*, at various stages of implementation, and understands the barriers to access such subsidised schemes. The study employs mixed ways to elucidate that exclusionary processes operate from the district level to within the household and affect access to RSBY card significantly. These exclusions are driven by social factors (e.g. age, gender, language, literacy), political factors (e.g. having political contacts), economic factors (e.g. being a daily wage earner, subsistence living, migrant labourers, inability to pay bribes), and cultural factors (e.g. religion, caste, tribal). The study team is currently in the process of writing and disseminating the findings to a wider audience with the aim of highlighting the importance of employing a social exclusion lens when implementing social welfare schemes. Read more about the study [here](#) and [here](#).

Upcoming events

Making Impact Evaluation Matter conference: The Asian Development Bank, 3ie and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies are hosting *Making Impact Evaluation Matter*, the first major international impact evaluation conference to be held in Asia. It will be held at ADB in Manila from 1 to 5 September 2014. [Click here](#) to read more and register.

The Global Institute for Development Evidence (GIDE), in collaboration with Flowers School of Management and Technology, have launched intensive online and instructor-led courses and training workshops on impact evaluation. They provide specialist training in impact evaluation, systematic reviews, and mainstreaming regional integration and environmental impact assessment through a blended learning mode. The course participants can elect to attend instructor-led highly participative high-impact training seminars and continue at their own pace through the Flowers online learning portal or via instructor-facilitated online learning. Professionals in government institutions, non-governmental organisations and academics in the environmental sciences, political science and economics will find these training programmes helpful for enhanced decision-making. Click [here](#) for more details.

Funding opportunities

Grant opportunity for researchers based in low-income countries: The Private Enterprise Development in Low-income Countries (PEDL) research initiative, run by Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and DFID, is inviting applications through its Exploratory Research Grants (ERG) programme from **researchers based in low- or middle-income Countries (L&MICs) with a DFID programme**. While low-income country-based researchers are eligible to apply to any ERG funding round, PEDL is issuing an exclusive special

call in order to encourage broader participation in the programme. PEDL encourages proposals that address three cross-cutting issues: fragile and conflict-affected states; gender, and climate, environment, and social compliance. **The deadline for submissions is 1 September 2014. Applicants must be based in low-or middle-income countries with a DFID programme to qualify for this special call. A list of eligible countries can be found [here](#).** A detailed call for proposals is available [here](#). For more information, please email pedl@cepr.org.

Other announcements

The Advisory Research Group International has changed its name: It is now known as the [Global Institute for Development Evidence \(GIDE\)](#), with effect from 1 April 2014. GIDE is headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, and is a non-profit international initiative for research-based evidence with services in Africa, Asia and USA.

GIDE is also inviting applications for **senior consultants: impact evaluation - systematic reviews**. For more details about the vacancy and how to apply, click [here](#).

J-PAL introduces Research Newsletter: J-PAL introduced a new monthly newsletter in 2014 designed for academics and researchers. The Research Newsletter will highlight new and completed research within the J-PAL network. The newsletter will provide abstracts from recently distributed working papers and newly published papers, summaries of new evaluations by J-PAL affiliates that are publicly registered on the American Economic Association Registry, links to published datasets, and other research resources.

If you are interested in receiving the Research Newsletter, or any of J-PAL's other newsletters, [sign up here](#). Contact researchnews@povertyactionlab.org with any questions or comments.

New Associate Members

- Global Institute for Development Evidence (www.gidepolicy.org)
- The Institute for Monitoring and Evaluation ([http://www.commerce.uct.ac.za/Organisations/Institute for Monitoring and Evaluation/](http://www.commerce.uct.ac.za/Organisations/Institute%20for%20Monitoring%20and%20Evaluation/))
- Oxford Evidence and Interventions Ltd. (www.oxevin.co.uk)
- Catalyst Management Services (CMS) (<http://www.cms.org.in>)

This newsletter is published twice a year to give associate members the opportunity to share news and information among themselves. Organisations submitting items remain solely responsible for all errors or omissions. None of the information reflects the views or positions of 3ie or its board of commissioners. 3ie reserves the right to edit for length and style. The next newsletter will be published in January 2015. Contributions and feedback on how we can improve this newsletter are welcome at any time. Please send them to djoy@3ieimpact.org.