

Impact Evaluation: Can We Learn More? Better?

A conference hosted by the Center for Global Development (CGD)
and co-sponsored by the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Wednesday, July 17, 2013
1800 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC

The impact evaluation world has changed dramatically in recent years through a range of initiatives at research institutions, think tanks, development agencies, and governmental policy units. As part of these trends, the CGD's Evaluation Gap Working Group issued "When Will We Ever Learn?" in 2006, a report that proposed creating 3ie but also recommended ways that foreign and domestic agencies could improve the production and use of impact evaluations.

The purpose of this conference is to reflect on what has been achieved in recent years, to consider how the environment has and has not changed, to assess existing initiatives aimed at improving the supply and use of high quality evidence and to provide ideas for 3ie as it considers the next stage of its strategy within this landscape. Please note that the afternoon sessions will be organized to include small group discussions with the intention of generating specific and useful ideas for future action.

Agenda

9:00-9:15 Introduction and welcome - Nancy Birdsall (CGD) - *Light breakfast provided*

9:15-10:45 How has impact evaluation changed since "When Will We Ever Learn?"
Panelists: William Savedoff (CGD), Suzanne Duryea (IADB), Scott Rozelle (Stanford University)

11:00-12:30 What are we learning from Impact Evaluations? Use of IEs in selected sectors
Panelists: Justin Sandefur (CGD), John Hoddinott (IFPRI)

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:45 Challenges in the use of impact evaluations for policy
Panelists: Howard White (3ie), Orlando Gracia (Sinergia)
Small group discussions and large group voting

1. *What are 2 important reasons that impact evaluation findings sometimes fail to influence policy.*
2. *What are 2 actions that could be taken to improve the likelihood that impact evaluation findings will influence policy? (If possible, one of these should be an action that could be taken by international organizations or collective agencies).*

3:45-4:45 Public Goods for more impact from impact evaluations and next steps for 3ie
Panelists: David McKenzie (WB), Annette Brown (3ie)

1. *What public goods would contribute to improving the use of evidence in policy decisions?*
2. *Which actions should 3ie consider as part of its strategic plan for generating high quality evidence that contributes to effective policies for the poor?*

4:45-5:00 Closing Remarks: Richard Manning (3ie)

5:00 – 6:00 Reception