



August 2009

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Bringing you information about DFID-funded research

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Education: How should we do it?

The UK is set to remodel its education programme in the world's poorest countries in an attempt to help children who are considered the hardest to reach and revive international efforts to get all primary aged children into school by 2015.

On 6 August we launched a wide-ranging public consultation to investigate a range of options that will help shape a new education strategy. The consultation is calling on the UK's leading education experts, teachers, charity workers, NGOs and others to apply their knowledge and experience

The consultation will look at how to improve access for children in countries affected by conflict and instability alongside improving education for girls, better teachers and curricula focussed on jobs. As well as getting more children into school it's also important to ensure those attending continue to do so and the quality of their learning is improved.

[Have your say - take part in the consultation](#)

Take note:

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New Projects

International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM)

Core funding was renewed for the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM), a not-for-profit foundation whose mission is to prevent HIV transmission by accelerating the development and availability of safe and effective microbicides for use by women in developing countries. An effective microbicide will not only protect women against HIV infection, but also interrupt the cycle of transmission from and to men and to newborns by preventing infection in the mothers.

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)

Core funding was renewed for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), a not-for-profit foundation whose mission is to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV vaccines for use throughout the world. Since its foundation in 1996 IAVI has enabled the development and evaluation of a wide range of candidate vaccines. There are no AIDS vaccines available at the moment and the last two years have yielded disappointing research results as potential vaccines being tested have not been effective and trials have been stopped early, but this vital work continues.

DFID / Medical Research Council Concordat 2008–13

DFID and the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) have had a Concordat in place since 1993 to support biomedical health research to tackle the priority health problems of people in developing countries. The goal of the Concordat is to produce high quality evidence that improves the health of the poorest people in developing countries. Its purpose is to support high quality biomedical and health research which tackles the priority health problems of people in developing countries.

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases Research (TDR)

The Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), based at WHO, is an independent global programme of scientific collaboration. Established in 1975 and co-sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank, and WHO, it aims to help coordinate, support and influence global efforts to combat a portfolio of major diseases of the poor and disadvantaged. The programme places a strong emphasis on research with practical application and developing countries have a voice in the management of the research.

UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme Of Research: Human Reproduction Programme (HRP)

Research on reproductive health has been identified as one of the top ten global research priorities. Improved access to reproductive health services enables women and men to exercise choice in childbearing and improves the health and quality of life for parents and children. It can also have a direct impact on gender equality and poverty reduction. The HRP brings together policymakers, scientists, health-care providers, clinicians, consumers and community representatives to identify and address research priorities to improve sexual and reproductive health in developing countries.

Drugs For Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDI)

Core funding renewed for Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi), which was launched in 2003 as an independent, not-for-profit organisation. It focuses on research, development and access to drugs for the world's most neglected diseases. Most neglected diseases, such as sleeping sickness, Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, etc. almost exclusively affect people in developing countries who are too poor to pay for any kind of treatment and do not constitute a market that can attract investment in drug research and development (R&D).

TB Alliance

Core funding renewed for the TB Alliance, which aims to accelerate the development of new anti-tuberculosis drug regimens that shorten and/or simplify treatment, are effective against multi-drug resistant TB, can be administered together with anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) and address both active and latent forms of the disease. The resulting medicines must be accessible, affordable to all in need, and promptly adopted for field use.

Medicines For Malaria Venture (MMV)

Core funding renewed for the MMV, which aims to discover, develop and help deliver new, appropriate, effective and affordable antimalarial drugs; and facilitate access to these medicines in the malaria-endemic countries. MMV is a not-for-profit foundation, its goal is to reduce deaths and illness from malaria and its purpose is to discover, develop and help deliver new, appropriate, effective and affordable antimalarial drugs through public-private partnerships and facilitate access to these medicines in the malaria-endemic countries.

Learning Lessons on Research Uptake and Use: A review of DFID's research communication programmes

This review seeks to make strategic and higher level recommendations that will assist DFID Research to define its research communication framework and action plan, and to allocate resources to those areas that are most likely to meet the objectives of the research strategy. It is not an evaluation of the individual programmes, but rather seeks to learn lessons from across the portfolio to inform DFID on how it might work differently in the future.

[More projects](#)

New Research Documents

Rural Road Standards and Specifications: Classification, Geometric Standards and Pavement Options. Final Project Report

TRL Limited, SEACAP 19-03, 2009, 67 pages

This document describes proposed rural road Classification and Geometric Standards that are recommended for formal adoption by the Ministry of Rural Development. It includes technical explanations of all the steps in deriving the classifications and standards and a matrix of structural designs suitable for use with them. A summary of the Rural Road Classification and Geometric Standards is included as an appendix to the document. This document focuses on pavement issues and does not deal with structures (bridges and culverts), earthworks, drainage or maintenance issues.

Collective Action, Gender and Ethnicity in Peru: A case study of the People's Kitchens

R. Thorp, CRISE Working Paper No.67, 2009, 20 pages

This paper describes a study of women's collective action as a means of exploring the intertwining of gender, ethnicity and poverty in the phenomenon of collective action among marginalised groups. Collective action among indigenous and 'chola' women is studied through the phenomenon of the 'Comedores Populares', or People's Kitchens. The study was part of a wider project examining the role of collective action – or its absence or weakness – as a possible partial explanation of the persistence of inequality, particularly inequality between groups, or 'horizontal' inequalities (HI).

**Child and Youth Migration in West Africa: Research progress and implications for policy.
Accra, Ghana, 9–10 June, 2009**

The Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty (Migration DRC) and the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) at the University of Ghana co-hosted a workshop titled 'Child and Youth Migration in West Africa: Research Progress and Implications for Policy' in Accra 9–10 June, 2009. These documents include the meeting report, list of attendees, programme, and abstracts (in English and French), along with a link to the meeting website, where the conference presentations and papers can be downloaded.

Indigenous Institutions, Traditional Leaders and Elite Coalitions for Development: The case of Greater Durban, South Africa

J. Beall and M. Nkonyama, Crisis States Research Centre Working Paper No.55 (Series 2), 2009, 35 pages

South Africa was not atypical in having to accommodate indigenous institutions in its new political order in 1994. In many parts of the world, and especially post-colonial states, customary forms of governance remain salient, being deeply rooted in local institutions. Indigenous institutions are not immutable and have connected with, and been engaged by, colonial powers and western states in a range of ways and to varying effect over many decades. It is increasingly recognised that institutional multiplicity and competing claims to social and political legitimacy need to be taken seriously.

China's Private Enterprises in Africa and the Implications for African Development

Jing Gu, Centre for the Future State Research Summary 39, 2009, 2 pages

This paper is based on fieldwork in eight Chinese provinces and regions, and in Ghana, Nigeria and Madagascar. Initially, Chinese companies mainly implemented development projects. In the mid-1980s large state-owned trading companies followed, and from the mid-1990s state-owned manufacturing companies. From 2005 investment by private Chinese companies accelerated, in manufacturing and across a range of sectors and countries. This research explores the main characteristics of these firms, their motivation for investment, and the development implications for Africa.

Lessons Learnt from Health Researchers and Communication Experts at an International Meeting on Strengthening the Research to Policy Interface

O. Tulloch, J. Crichton, S. Theobald and K. Hawkins, Briefing, 2009, 4 pages

The mechanisms for getting research into policy and practice are receiving increasing attention from health researchers and donors. Participants from the DFID-funded sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS Research Programme Consortia (RPCs) met at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) on 18-19 May, 2009. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange learning on communicating research findings for policy and practice, and this briefing paper outlines the main messages from the meeting.

Parallel Realities: Exploring poverty dynamics using mixed methods in rural Bangladesh

P. Davis and R. Baulch, CPRC Working Paper No.142, 2009, 34 pages

In this paper we explore the implications of using two different methodological approaches to study poverty dynamics in rural Bangladesh. Using data from a unique mixed-methods longitudinal study of rural households, we focus on how different methods lead to very different assessments of socio-economic mobility, in particular movements into and out of poverty. We discuss the reasons why qualitative and quantitative assessments of poverty dynamics for the same households differ and suggest five ways of reconciling these differences.

Nicaragua: Public Plant Health Services for All. Results and lessons learned 2005–2007

S. Danielsen and M. Fernández, 2009, 27 pages

In 2005 the Nicaraguan Foundation for Technological Development in Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry (FUNICA) began a pilot service in collaboration with the Global Plant Clinic and others to improve farmers' access to adequate and timely advisory services for plant health. Four Plant Clinics

and a Diagnostic Network were established (the Plant Healthcare and Diagnostic Network), and specialists provided correct diagnoses and accurate control options. This report presents the results of a self-evaluation made by a diverse team of actors of the Plant Clinics and Plant Healthcare Network.

Financing Kenyan Health Centres and Dispensaries: Exploring the implementation and effects of direct facility funding

A. Opwora, M. Kabare, S. Molyneux and C. Goodman, CREHS Policy Brief, April 2009, 2 pages

Evidence that user fees present a barrier to accessing health services, especially for poor and vulnerable people, has led to the abolition of high and variable user fees in Kenya, where they were replaced with low flat fees. But does this limit the money available for health facilities. The Kenyan Government and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) have piloted an innovative scheme of directly funding health facilities in Coast Province. This policy brief highlights the impact of this scheme and provides recommendations for policymakers in Kenya and other countries.

Voice and Women's Empowerment: Mapping a Research Agenda

A.M. Goetz and C. Nyamu, Pathways of Women's Empowerment Brief 2, 2008, 4 pages

The number of women in public office is an inadequate proxy for assessing 'women's political voice' in public decision-making as it is based on the assumption that female public officials will – by virtue of their gender – seek to promote women's rights and gender-specific issues. This Policy Brief seeks to explain how a critical analysis of the concept of 'representation' can help researchers understand the reasons why numbers alone are not enough to ensure an amplification of women's public voice and substantive transformation of policy. The Brief is based on Pathways Working Paper 2.

CREATE Bangladesh: Community and School Study (COMSS) Baseline Report

Altaf Hossain, Md. Abul Kalam, S. Cameron, Layli Uddin, and Manzoor Ahmed, CREATE Fieldwork Report, 2009, 87 pages

This report outlines the research approach and instruments used in the 2007 CREATE COMSS study; describes the study areas's economic, social and health variables; describes the conditions, facilities and teachers of the surveyed schools; and considers the likely determinants of four types of educational exclusion: never-enrolment, drop out from primary grades, 'virtual exclusion', and failure to make the transition from primary to secondary. Finally it draws tentative conclusions for education policy in Bangladesh and looks towards further data rounds and analysis of the ComSS.

The Experiences of Districts in Implementing a National Incentive Programme to Promote Safe Delivery in Nepal

T. Powell-Jackson, J. Morrison, S. Tiwari, B. Neupane, and A. Costello, BMC Health Services Research (2009) 9:97, 11 pages

Nepal's Safe Delivery Incentive Programme (SDIP) was introduced nationwide in 2005 with the intention of increasing professional care at childbirth. It provided cash to women giving birth in a health facility and an incentive to the health provider for each delivery attended, either at home or in the facility. We explored early implementation of the programme at the district level to understand the factors that have contributed to its low uptake. This paper describes the methods, results and conclusions about this attempt to transfer a policy popular in Latin America to Asia.

TB Alliance Newsletter: July 2009

The latest newsletter from the TB Alliance includes stories about the Alliance's partnership with Tibotec and their success in charting innovative development paradigm for TB drugs; how MTV Latin America has been enlisted in the fight against TB, along with football star and Stop TB Ambassador Luis Figo; and 'Stocking the Discovery-Stage Pipeline', about how three new research collaborations offer long-term hope; and how MDR-TB made the headlines at the 2009 Pacific Health Summit.

Community-based DOTS and family member DOTS for TB control in Nepal: costs and cost-effectiveness

T. Mirzoev, S.C. Baral, D. Karki, A.T. Green, and J.N. Newell, Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation (2008) 6:20, 8 pages

Two TB control strategies appropriate for South Asia (a community-based DOTS [CBD] strategy and a family-based DOTS [FBD] strategy) have been shown to be effective in Nepal in meeting the global target for the proportion of registered patients successfully treated. Here we estimate the costs and cost-effectiveness of the two strategies. This information is essential to allow meaningful comparisons between these and other strategies and will contribute to the small but growing body of knowledge on the costs and cost-effectiveness of different approaches to TB control.

PILAR (United Indonesians Against Overcharging) Achieves the Cancellation of Unjust Government Policy

WEMC, 2009, 4 pages

This success story tells how PILAR (United Indonesians Against Overcharging), which was facilitated by the Center for Environment Gender and Development (ENGENDER-HK), a research partner of the Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts Research Programme Consortium (WEMC-RPC), became the principal instrument in the reversal of the key government policy SE2258 which was issued on 7 December, 2008 by the Indonesian Consulate in Hong Kong. SE2258 would have limited Indonesian women migrant worker's mobility and rights to change their employment agencies.

Early Childhood Education Trajectories and Transitions: A study of the experiences and perspectives of parents and children in Andhra Pradesh, India

U. Vennam, A. Komanduri, E. Cooper, G. Crivello and M. Woodhead, Young Lives Working Paper 52, 2009, 44 pages

This paper explores diverse pathways through early childhood in the context of Andhra Pradesh state, India. The particular focus is on experiences of pre-school and transitions to primary school. The paper is based on analysis of Young Lives survey data (n=1950) collected for a group of young children born at the beginning of the millennium, plus in-depth qualitative research with a small sub-sample (n=24). We start from the premise that children's earliest educational experiences can have a crucial influence on their lifelong adjustments and achievements.

Scoping study into the impacts of bioenergy development on food security

Practical Action Consulting, 2008, 38 pages

This paper explores current thinking on the impacts of bioenergy on food security and investigates how this debate is framed, including underlying assumptions and limitations. In addition to scoping the international debate this study will, where possible, draw on examples from Tanzania, Kenya, India and Sri Lanka to maximise relevance to the work being undertaken by the PISCES consortium. The study will recommend areas for further study and collaborate with on-going initiatives. It will provide an initial overview of approaches for integrating food security into the wider PISCES research agenda.

'Town chiefs' in Malawi

D. Cammack, E. Kanyongolo, and T. O'Neil, Africa Power and Politics Programme (APPP) Working Paper No.3, 2009, 63 pages

This study of 'town chiefs' initiates a long-term programme of research on local leadership in Malawi. Town chiefs are one type of hybrid political order or governance 'mode' in Malawi; they operate within overlapping normative universes, and perform acts which have both historical resonance and modern purposes. Whilst known collectively as town chiefs, they assume a number of titles, and have various characteristics, roles and authority. Their behaviour facilitates community action, social order and cohesion, producing a variety of public goods that we consider developmental.

Governance Capabilities and the Property Rights Transition in Developing Countries

Mushtaq H. Khan, 2009, 105 pages

The 'good governance' property rights reform agenda and the interpretations of colonial history on which it is based, are deeply flawed. A different analytical and policy approach is needed for promoting growth-enhancing governance capabilities for managing the property rights transitions in developing countries. Donor and partner governments need a different approach for promoting growth-enhancing governance capabilities for managing the property rights transitions in developing countries.

Increased Output through Improved Access: Pakistan's National Digital Library Programme

INASP, 2009, 2 pages

Pakistan's National Digital Library Programme (NDLP) was introduced in 2003 as part of a mission to build and strengthen research culture in Pakistan. Since its inception, the NDLP has had an impressive impact on the country's research output and accessibility. The NDLP was designed in collaboration with phase one of INASP's Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERI). This brief charts the progress and achievements of the NDLP.

How Does Economic Empowerment Affect Women's Risk of Intimate Partner Violence in Low and Middle Income Countries? A systematic review of published evidence

S. Vyas and W. Watts, Journal of International Development (2009) 21(9), 25 pages

The aim of this review was to identify whether individual and household economic empowerment is associated with lower intimate partner violence in low- and middle-income country settings. Published data from 41 sites were reviewed. The review concludes that at an individual and household level, economic development and poverty reduction may have protective impacts on IPV. Context specific factors influence whether financial autonomy is protective or associated with increased risk.

Understanding Smallholders' Decisions towards Adopting HPAI Prevention and Control Measures

E. Wieggers and J. Curry, HPAI Research Brief No.16, 2009, 4 pages

Any decision-making by policymakers on HPAI prevention and control is challenged by the need to avoid both adverse impacts on the poor and low efficacy in cases where households are unable or unwilling to comply with selected measures. In this paper we explore incentives and investment decisions of smallholders towards adopting HPAI prevention and control measures by looking at factors that shape their decisions.

[More documents](#)

Recent News Stories

Experiences from the WCSJ 2009

The 6th World Conference of Science Journalists, which was partly sponsored by DFID Research, took place in London during the week 30 June – 2 July, 2009. It brought together more than 700 journalists from around the world to meet and debate critical issues. We have recently published a series of blogs about the conference on R4D Research Dialogue, describing our experiences. These include comments on various sessions at the conference, personal reflections, practical ideas on communicating science-based research, and feedback and discussion on how R4D was marketed.

Leading women scientists from Africa meet US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Women scientists from the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) project met with US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton in Nairobi. Women farmers account for 80% of Africa's food production, but only a quarter of its researchers and development experts, and only 14% of management positions in agricultural research and development. The AWARD programme has provided fellowships to 120 women from 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa to increase the pool of female talent supporting Africa's farmers.

Journalists demonstrate their skills in writing on development issues

The *Guardian* DFID International Development Journalism competition 2009 challenged writers to demonstrate their journalistic skills by examining the important issues facing the developing world. Enthusiastic writers were asked to write a feature of 650 to 1,000 words on an aspect of global poverty that deserves greater media exposure. The longlist of winning entries from 20 amateur and 20 professional writers, has now been published on the *Guardian* website. Sixteen finalists will be flown to a developing country to research a new assignment, which will be published in the *Guardian*.

The future for artemisinin in the treatment of malaria

Artemisinin and its derivatives are currently the most effective drugs used in the treatment of malaria, but recent evidence from Cambodia shows signs of resistance to artemisinin. In an interview for BBC Radio 4's programme Material World, which aired on 30th July, 2009, Professor Chris Whitty, Director of Research at DFID, discussed the use of artemisinin in the treatment of malaria, including the importance of using combination therapies to counter the development of resistance, and the need to find alternatives for the treatment of the disease.

Communications vacancies at DFID

The Communications Team in DFID's Policy and Research Directorate is looking to fill four posts. The Team helps the Directorate communicate its work clearly and to the right audiences both internally and externally. It develops and delivers communications strategies to increase the impact and profile of DFID's policy and research. The focus is on communicating messages to 'specialist' audiences including academics, development experts, NGOs, other donors, multilaterals and developing country governments. It also works alongside DFID's Communications Division on policy and research themes that are important to the UK public for example, climate change or combating HIV and AIDS. **The closing date for all four posts is 21 August 2009**

ICTs and Development: An International Workshop for Theory, Practice, & Policy

Papers are invited for the forthcoming international workshop on ICTs and Development: An International Workshop for Theory, Practice, & Policy to be conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi, India, during 11-12 March, 2010. Papers should examine how mobile phones, computers, and the Internet influence the empowerment of marginal individuals and communities, including whether ICTs create and enhance livelihood opportunities for people in the developing world. **The deadline for submission of manuscripts is 1 October, 2009.**

Solutions to rural transport problems in South East Asia

The South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP) ended on 30 June, 2009. The programme aimed to improve the sustainable access of poor people in rural communities to health, education, employment and trade opportunities, with over 30 projects being carried out in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos PDR. Using the programme's sustainable approaches UNOPS is managing the design and construction of 400km of rural roads in Sri Lanka, providing 3 million days of work for local people and improved access to services. The results of the research conducted under SEACAP are also contributing to other major rural road programmes supported by various donors.

DFID call for a synthesis of policy and research lessons from Latin America

DFID wishes to engage a consortium of partners to deliver a programme of work that systematically captures and communicates some of the key policy and research lessons from Latin America. The programme aims to communicate the lessons learned and establish a sustainable systematic approach to ensuring the lessons are accessible by those who may benefit from them. **The deadline for submissions is 24 August, 2009.**

DFID Research Programme on Sanitation and Hygiene: Call for expressions of interest

DFID Research requires consultancy services to improve access to and uptake of adequate sanitation and hygiene by poor households to contribute to achieving the MDGs and to reducing poverty worldwide. The research programme will develop and promote the adoption of new and existing knowledge of policies and practices to improve sanitation and hygiene services and behaviour in poor households in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. **The deadline for submissions is 25 August 2009.**

Indian industry dependent on a forgotten workforce

A new study on the use of contract labour in India's manufacturing sector has found surprisingly high levels of contract workers being used – in some cases, as many as three times the official estimate. Contract workers are recruited informally to established businesses via intermediaries. The findings suggest that some of India's key industries, such as cement, iron and steel, cotton textiles and jute, rely on contract labour for as many of four out of every five workers.

DFID seeks applications for two posts in the Research Uptake Team

DFID is looking for two Research Evidence Brokers for the Research Uptake team within the Policy and Research Directorate. The Team's purpose is to ensure that research results across the whole DFID Research portfolio are available, accessible and usable through a range of means. This is managed through: research programmes on communications for development; knowledge-sharing services for research evidence; engagement and capacity-building activities for research uptake. **The deadline for applications is 24 August, 2009.**

DFID-funded organization produces 'Scientist of the Year'

A member of CABI's Caribbean and Latin America Office, Yelitza Colmenarez, was awarded 'Scientist of the Year' by the Ministry of Agriculture in Barbados on 7 July, 2009. CABI, a not-for-profit science-based development organization, receives funding from DFID. The accolade recognises Dr Colmenarez's work in implementing an integrated pest management (IPM) programme for cotton farmers in Barbados. Part of the programme involved training farmers in identifying cotton pests, and their natural enemies, and implementing management and control strategies to protect their crops.

The changing face of *New Agriculturist*

Like any good agriculturist who is keen to improve and adapt with the times, the DFID-supported online journal *New Agriculturist* is also undergoing change. The look and layout are developing, so that readers can find the articles most interesting to them more easily and regularly. A fresh design highlights recent articles including features, picture stories, news and reviews of recent publications. Interacting with *New Agriculturist* is also now easier than ever. Readers can rate an article, use the new facility to add their own comments, and join the growing number of followers on twitter.

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About R4D – DFID’s research portfolio on your desktop

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