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Welcome to R4D's monthly e-newsletter
Bringing you information about DFID-funded research

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New faces in DFID's Policy and Research Department

The new team is taking shape at Palace Street, starting with the arrival of the new Director of Policy, Nick Dyer, who joins PRD with extensive experience of working across DFID both in-country and internationally – most recently as Head of the European Union Department and then as Country Head in Malawi.

Next up on 1 March will be the new Head of Research, Professor Chris Whitty. Chris is currently professor of international health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He qualified as a medical doctor at Oxford University, and also holds degrees in economics, law and epidemiology. He is Director of the Malaria Centre, and of the ACT consortium, which is a collaboration of 20 institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe and the USA. He has worked as a doctor in Africa and Asia, and during the past five years has been involved in clinical, social and economic research in Afghanistan, Angola, Ghana, Malawi, Pakistan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen. He is a consultant physician on tropical diseases and chair of the Department of Health national expert panel on new and emerging infections.

PRD Director Andrew Steer will also welcome a number of new Deputy Directors over the coming months. Bella Bird will be heading up the Governance and Social Development Group in early April from her current post as Country Head in Nepal. She previously served as Country Head in Vietnam, and has worked extensively on social development and state building issues. Calum Miller started as Head of the Growth and Investment Group last Monday (a day before his wife gave birth to a baby girl). He joins us from HM Treasury where he was leading the International Development and Climate Change Group. Finally, Lisa Phillips will make a welcome return to Policy and Research in early April as the Head of Cabinet to the Policy, Research and Trade Divisions, and offices of the Chief Economist and Chief Scientist.

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New Projects

Support for the implementation of the Health Research Capacity Strengthening Initiative (HRCSI) in Malawi

This project will (a) provide enhanced institutional capacity for high-quality multidisciplinary health-related research; (b) ensure that national health policies and programmes are formulated using research findings; (c) ensure that scientific knowledge is more effectively shared across international organisations and knowledge networks; (d) improve the regulation and coordination of the national research environment; and (e) share organisational learning relevant to wider work on research capacity development.

InfoDev

infoDev is a partnership of international development agencies, coordinated and served by an expert secretariat housed at the World Bank, one of its key donors and founders. Its core clients are its donors, policymakers, development practitioners, and the private sector in developing countries. *infoDev* acts as a neutral convener of dialogue and a coordinator of joint action among international development agencies and helps the international community and developing countries make sense of the impact of ICTs on development and poverty reduction.

Scoping a long-term research programme on conflict, state fragility and social cohesion

This scoping study aims to provide evidence of the need for research on conflict, state fragility and social cohesion and to provide recommendations on the scope and focus of a long-term research programme in this area. It builds on the 2007 consultation for DFID's research strategy (2008–2013) as well as consultations undertaken in August 2008 with DFID staff and partners. These consultation processes suggested that there was demand for further research in two key areas: the drivers and sustainers of conflict and fragility; and prevention and recovery.

The intra-household allocation of resources: Cross-cultural tests, methodological innovations and policy implications

We will use experiments, socio-economics surveys and in-depth interviews to answer: (1) Are the assumptions and key predictions of the most influential economic models of the household valid? (2) To what extent is the allocation of resources within households governed by norms of fairness? (3) Are such norms conducive to equality and/or efficiency within the household? (4) How are norms for allocation related to the cultural and economic context, particularly patterns of conjugality? (5) To what extent are experimental results (i) relevant to real-world behaviour; (ii) the useful basis for policy innovation?

Tropical forests in poverty alleviation: From household data to global-comparative analysis

Our primary project objective is to undertake a comprehensive global-comparative analysis of the role of forests and environmental income in preventing and reducing rural poverty, built on a centrally coordinated pan-tropical databank with high-quality primary household and village data collected through PEN (research outputs). The secondary objectives are to recommend tangible forest-poverty interventions and feed them into national and global policy processes; and to both enhance the ability of project partners to use best-practice methods for conducting income-accounting rural household surveys and suggest improved research methodologies for future.

Impact evaluation of performance-based contracting for general health and HIV/AIDS services in Rwanda

We will evaluate the impact of a new performance-based contracting (PBC) scheme for healthcare services being implemented by the government of Rwanda for basic preventive and curative health care services and HIV/AIDS treatment. Specifically, the objectives of this research are to identify the impact of performance based contracting on provider behavior, patient use and health outcomes. We

will observe how incentive-based payment affects behavior, while also studying health care use for both preventative and curative care among poor, rural populations.

Gender, education and global poverty reduction initiatives

The objectives of this study are to (a) examine in what ways global, national, regional and local ideas and actions regarding gender equality in education and poverty reduction connect and disconnect; (b) explore relationships in bringing about change in policy and practice in the field of gender, education and poverty reduction; and (c) work with organisations at national, provincial and local level to examine how and why certain conditions, interpretations and actions regarding gender and education impact on poverty reduction and how to enhance policy, advocacy, debate, and implementation in this area.

Student performance in national examinations: The dynamics of language in school achievement

Many children in sub-Saharan Africa take formal their exams for a range of subjects in English. However, for the vast majority of these students, English will not be their first language, but a second or a third language. Significantly, the use of an unfamiliar second language emerges as a factor in school ineffectiveness and poor achievement levels, thus contributing to school dropout rates. Much less is known, however, about how students may be disadvantaged in demonstrating subject knowledge through English in formal examinations. This research proposes to fill this gap and to investigate language factors in examinations and how these affect students' performance.

Embedding poor people's voices in local governance: Participation and political empowerment in India

Although the poor are often officially defined on the basis of their income or consumption, their lack of voice and influence are globally recurring themes in many of their own accounts of their poverty. When the poor feel silenced in public arenas, or are treated with disrespect by authority figures, this is indicative of their wider political disempowerment, a central component of ill-being in itself. This project will examine the effectiveness of attempts to tackle this core element of poverty through local governance reform. Its central research question is: to what extent do participatory initiatives within local governance enhance poor people's opportunities for political empowerment?

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New Research Documents

Knowledge Gaps in the Sustainable Provision of Low Volume Rural Roads

J. Rolt, SEACAP Practitioners Meeting (SPM) 2008, Laos, 4–7 November 2008, 6 pages

This paper covers the same information as is presented in a Powerpoint presentation from the Practitioners Meeting. It looks at knowledge gaps and barriers with reference to low volume rural roads.

Bottom Up Policy Process: An agenda for Future Agricultures in Ethiopia

A. Teshome, *The Ethiopian Herald*, Saturday 23 June, 2007, 7 pages

Policy making in Ethiopia is generally a 'top down' process. Future Agricultures, a learning consortium of local and international academics and researchers, has developed and tested an all inclusive policy consultation process that, if scaled up, could change the top down legacy. In the process of testing the model, indicative ideas for agricultural policy making have been generated. This article reports on this innovative process.

Can Malawi's Poor Afford Free Tuberculosis Services? Patient and household costs associated with a tuberculosis diagnosis in Lilongwe

J.R. Kemp, G. Mann, B. Nhlema Simwaka, F.M.L. Salaniponi, and S. Bertel Squire, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, (2007) 85(8), 7 pages

This project assessed the relative costs of accessing a TB diagnosis for poor people and for women in urban Lilongwe, Malawi, a setting where public health services are accessible within 6 kilometres and provided free of charge. On average, patients spent US\$13 (MK 996 or 18 days' income) and lost 22 days from work while accessing a TB diagnosis. Patient and household costs of TB diagnosis are prohibitively high even where services are provided free of charge. In scaling up TB services to reach the Millennium Development Goals, there is an urgent need to identify strategies for diagnosing TB that are cost-effective for the poor and their households.

A Typology of Post-Conflict Environments: An overview

G. Brown, A. Langer and F. Stewart, *CRISE Working Paper No.53*, 2008, 23 pages

Countries that are in a post-conflict stage of development differ in many important respects – in their economic state and potential, their political system, their bureaucratic capacities and the state of security in the country itself. All these variations are relevant to the appropriate design of post-conflict policies. Consequently, it may be helpful to develop a typology of situations confronted by post-conflict policy-makers, rather than expecting a one-size-fits-all approach to work. This paper develops such a typology.

Information Campaigns on Safe Migration and Pre-Departure Training

Tasneem Siddiqui, R. Rashid and B. Zeitlyn, *DRC Research Report*, November 2008, 80 pages

This report describes information campaigns for migrants by the governments of Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. Disseminating information widely and training those who are already in the process of migration are enormous tasks. This report looks into Sri Lanka and the Philippines' experiences in safe migration information campaigns and in the area of pre-departure orientation training. The study puts forward recommendations for improving the state of information campaign and pre-departure orientation training for labour migrants in Bangladesh.

Rethinking How to Prevent HIV in Young People: Evidence from two large randomised controlled trials in Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

MEMA kwa Vijana Policy Briefing Paper No.10, 2008, 6 pages

This brief examines the policy implications of the results of two recently completed major trials of adolescent sexual and reproductive health interventions in sub-Saharan Africa; the MEMA kwa Vijana Trial in Mwanza, Tanzania, and the Regai Dzive Shiri Trial in Zimbabwe. The trials focused on developing skills and changing attitudes and self-efficacy to change behaviours. They used participatory, active learning methods, and included interventions in schools, health services and the broader community.

Extending Coverage of Maternal Health Care Through the National Health Insurance Authority in Ghana: Lessons from the Impact evaluation of the free delivery care policy

Impact Briefing Note, June 2008, 4 pages

A policy of free medical care for pregnant women was announced by the president of Ghana in May 2008. Based on lessons learned from Impact evaluation research in Ghana – 'The case for exempting pregnant women', this brief gives pointers to help provide a more comprehensive package of care than was previously offered.

Identifying Optimal Strategies for Microbicide Distribution in India and South Africa: Modelling and cost-effectiveness analyses

C. Watts, A. Foss, L. Kumaranyake, A. Cox, F. Terris-Prestholt and P. Vickerman, *International Partnership for Microbicides report*, 2008, 55 pages

This report (also available in French and Spanish) presents the findings from a study that used epidemiological modelling and economic analyses to explore the potential impact and cost-effectiveness of different microbicide introduction strategies in Southern India (Mysore district, Karnataka) and South Africa (Gauteng Province).

Headteacher Needs Analysis Workshop

S. Appau, R.S. Bosu, P. Baaba Bansah, C. Mills, and G.K.T. Oduro, EdQual Workshop Report No.5, 2008, 13 pages

EdQual held two workshops in Ghana on the theme of “Effective Leadership: The Driving Force of Quality Basic Education”. The aim was to understand the leadership activities performed by primary school headteachers and how they promote quality education in Ghana. Quality education is critical to reducing poverty, so effective school leadership is necessary to ensure the successful implementation of Ghana’s educational reform. Understanding how headteachers perceive their own work and the challenges associated with their leadership tasks is key to delivering quality education.

Morality and Institutions: An exploration

J. Morton, IPPG Discussion Paper No.22, 2008, 22 pages

This paper explores the question of how culturally varying views of ‘morality’, ‘fairness’ and ‘justice’, particularly those held by the rural poor in developing countries, influence the way people evaluate, work within, use, and (sometimes) resist, economic institutions – especially the institutions that emerge or are actively promoted during ‘development’ (market-oriented or otherwise). It reviews the way this and related questions have been dealt with in a wide range of subjects, and discusses how insights about morality and its interactions with institutions could be incorporated more widely into our understanding of the relationship between institutions and development.

Policy Responses to Discrimination and their Contribution to Tackling Chronic Poverty

T. Braunholtz-Speight, Background Paper for the Chronic Poverty Report 2008–09, Chronic Poverty Research Centre, 2008, 39 pages

This paper is part of a stream of work for the Second Chronic Poverty Report (CPR2) on social change, policy and chronic poverty. It reviews the available literature to try to draw lessons on how anti-discrimination policies can help reduce chronic poverty, and what the limits to an anti-discrimination focus are in combating poverty.

Improving Evidence-based Policymaking in Maternal and Neonatal Health: Strategies for researchers and policymakers

Towards 4+5 Research Programme Consortium Briefing Paper No.1, 2008, 4 pages

The drive towards evidence-based policymaking (EBPM) currently dominates public health research, policy and practice; it shapes the perceived credibility of research methods, the types of policies and programmes implemented, and funding decisions. Whilst the EBPM movement has been successful in raising awareness about the importance of research for policy, powerful international decision-makers, researchers and donors continue to play a central role in shaping how research is developed and used, both internationally and nationally. This briefing paper highlights some constraints of the internationally-led EBPM movement on national-level research and policymaking.

No Drugs in an Age of Plenty: Urging governments to redress the balance

E. Torrelee, *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* (2006) 31 (1): 5 pages

Every day 35,000 people die from AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other major infectious diseases that disproportionately affect the poor in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Although patients with HIV/AIDS have benefited significantly from medical and scientific innovation, new treatments are developed mainly in industrialised countries and for rich patients. The benefits of these life-changing medical advances have yet to filter down to poorer countries. And few new medicines exist to tackle infectious diseases that continue to kill millions yet which in some cases are hardly known in the West. This article presses the case for research on neglected diseases, and gives an overview of the DNDi programme.

TB Alliance Newsletter
December 2008, 5 pages

Mapping Groundwater Potential: A guide for GIS developers

RiPPLE Research Programme Consortium, 2008, 2 pages

This is one of three fliers produced to illustrate how, based on the same information, different types of maps can target different types of users. This map shows the groundwater potential of upper Tumet catchment in Menge and Komosha woredas of Benishangul-Gumuz region, Ethiopia. The map was developed in a GIS environment using eight input parameters that indicate groundwater potential.

RIU e-newsletter

December 2008, 2 pages

Country news (from Zambia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Nepal) and new publications are highlighted.

Widening Participation in Higher Education in Ghana and Tanzania: Developing an Equity Scorecard

Introductory leaflet, 2008, 2 pages

This leaflet briefly describes the University of Sussex-based ESRC/DFID project 'Widening Participation in Higher Education in Ghana and Tanzania: Developing an Equity Scorecard'.

Organizational Psychology and Poverty Reduction: The ADDUP programme

S. Carr and M. MacLachlan, Powerpoint presentation for New Zealand Psychological Society Conference seminar, 2008, 12 pages

This presentation gives an overview of the ADDUP programme (Are Development Discrepancies Undermining Performance?), which examines pay diversity in aid and development workers and between expatriate and local staff.

Choosing Stakeholders for a Policy Consultative Process

D. Theuri, S. Kirul, B. O. Muok and J. W. Wakhungu, PISCES Policy Brief No. 2., 2008, 4 pages

The PISCES working group on policy innovations will be deliberating on a research theme on the policy development process by bringing together policymakers, stakeholders and experts. Identification of key stakeholders to engage in policy dialogue is a central theme in any policymaking process. The Policy Working Group recommends adoption of the market mapping approach to identify stakeholders and players in a policy dialogue by their policymaking processes.

Spotlight: IAVI's Network of Labs in Africa

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, 2008, 4 pages

This Spotlight brochure outlines the establishment and work of IAVI's 11 clinical trial laboratories in Africa. The facilities in Entebbe, Nairobi, Johannesburg, and Zambia are described.

People, Spaces, Deliberation: Exploring the interactions among public opinion, governance, and the public sphere

The Communication for Governance and Accountability Program (CommGAP), Blog, 2009

The Communication for Governance and Accountability Program (CommGAP) is based on two core premises: that a democratic public sphere is essential to securing and sustaining good governance and accountability, and that communication approaches and techniques are fundamental to the effectiveness of efforts to improve governance and direct accountability. This blog was set up as a useful tool for sharing ideas, debate, and building relationships that will contribute to more effective development policy and practice.

Scoping a Long-term Research Programme on Conflict, State Fragility and Social Cohesion **L. McLean, L. Hilker, D. Garrasi, L. Griffith, A. Purdekova and J. Clarke, Social Development Direct, 2008, 53 pages**

This exercise was commissioned to recommend the scope and focus of a long-term programme on conflict, state fragility and social cohesion. The work undertaken included (a) a literature review, (b) a consultation with DFID staff and a range of external stakeholders, and (c) a mapping of current and planned research activities being undertaken by academic institutions, donors, UN agencies, OECD-DAC, NGOs and other UK government departments in this field. The results of these three components of the study are presented and an outline is given of the proposed scope of the research programme.

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Recent News Stories

Call for Expressions of Interest for DFID Product Development Partnership (PDP) Funding

The DFID Research Strategy for 2008-13 outlines the approach to increase funding to product development partnerships (PDPs) to develop drugs, vaccines and other technologies for priority diseases. Up to £220 million will be available for funding existing and new PDPs. DFID is calling for expressions of interest for new PDPs, which must be received by **14:00, UK time, on 9 March, 2009**.

Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

A special edition of id21 Highlights focuses on the need for convergence between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies.

Inequality undermines education opportunities for millions of children

The 2009 Education for All Global Monitoring Report published by UNESCO in November 2008 warns that the failure of governments to tackle deep and persistent inequalities in education is consigning millions of children to lives of poverty and diminished opportunity.

GlobalHort announces the launch of a call for concept notes on horticultural global issues

The GlobalHort grants programme seeks highly collaborative projects and strongly encourages partners to collaborate to submit one proposal per theme. Co-funding with other funding bodies will be considered where appropriate. The four themes under which concept notes are welcomed are Nutrition and Human Health; Protected Horticulture; Fruit Fly Management; and Linking Farmers to Markets. The deadline for receiving concept notes is 27th February 2009.

Diagnostic tests for TB shown to be unreliable

Research conducted by the WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO-TDR) has found that diagnostic tests used in developing countries to detect people infected with TB are unreliable. Nineteen commercially available rapid diagnostic tests, used to detect antibodies to the tuberculosis bacterium, were evaluated. On average, the tests were only able to identify about a quarter of cases, with most identifying less than half of cases. In the worst example, less than 1 in 100 cases were detected.

UK Parliament visits IITA

Members of the UK All Parliament Group for Nigeria visited the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Headquarters to promote collaboration between the UK and the Institute that would bring about a faster resolution of hunger and poverty in Africa. The head of the UK Parliament delegation, John Robertson, commended IITA for its work, particularly the release of improved crop

varieties to farmers and the dissemination of improved technologies. The UK and DFID currently support the IITA through core funding of its research activities.

Improving rural roads is a key factor in reducing rural poverty

Road engineers, researchers and scientists met in Vientiane, Lao PDR, to discuss the work of the DFID-funded South East Asian Community Access Programme (SEACAP), which aims to improve the sustainable access of poor people in rural communities to health, education, employment and trade opportunities. In Lao, SEACAP has focused on sustainable and appropriate technologies for local road surfacing and paving and slope stability management; appropriate standards, specifications and guidelines for developing local roads; and knowledge, experience and information exchanges.

Care work: An affront to men's dignity?

It is a striking fact that women continue to provide a larger amount of care than men across all societies. Providing care can be a source of great fulfillment, but it can also be a terrible burden. For women and girls in particular, their socially prescribed role as carers can undermine their rights and limit their opportunities, capabilities and choices – posing a fundamental obstacle to gender equality and well-being. How can we move towards a more equal sharing of care responsibilities between women and men?

Gender resources for Spanish speakers

BRIDGE has produced two new bibliographies on gender and development. They present materials and websites from individuals and organisations based in Spanish-speaking countries, and give a flavour of the variety and richness of feminist debates and gender-sensitive initiatives taking place in both Latin America and Spain. The latest update from the Siyanda database, managed by BRIDGE, also highlights some key gender and developments resources and websites, and includes a selection of published work in Spanish from Siyanda experts.

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