



## December 2009

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

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### **Tackling Climate Change through Research**

In the run-up to the Copenhagen Conference DFID announced funding for two new climate change research programmes.

#### **Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) programme (£40 million)**

Ecosystem services underpin human wellbeing, especially that of the poor, providing a range of services such as food, clean air, water and protection from flooding. This pioneering research programme is a unique opportunity to strengthen the knowledge and understanding we need to develop resilient ecosystems and will also provide the evidence and tools for decision makers to manage ecosystems sustainably and in ways that will help to reduce poverty.

#### **Scaling-up Renewable Energy Programme (SREP) (£160 million, £50 from DFID)**

The new programme will not only help countries lower their carbon emissions but also bring new sources of energy to populations with little access to electricity. In Africa just 23% of people have access to regular electricity, and in many countries the figure is below 10%. SREP will encourage governments and the private sector in at least five low-income countries to scale up investment in renewables such as large-scale wind turbine arrays and small hydroelectric power plants.

#### **Notices from DFID**

- **DFID recruitment for new Director, General Policy, Research, and International Relations. Applications due 15 January, 2010**
- **DFID Open Consultation on Southern Africa Regional Plan. Open until 18 January, 2010**

#### **New Research Documents**

#### **Recent News Stories**

#### **About R4D**

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## New Research Documents

### **Mapping the Activities of Faith-based Organizations in Development in Nigeria**

**Olakunle Odumosu, Rasheed Olaniyi and Sunday Alonge, Working Paper No.38, Religions and Development Research Programme, 2009, 111 pages**

The nature, scale and activities of faith-based organizations (FBOs) remain poorly understood and documented in African countries. This paper reports on a preliminary 'mapping' of FBOs in development in Nigeria. Brief descriptive profiles of a range of FBOs throw light on their legal status, organizational structure, membership strength, sources of funds, main activities, and relationships with other FBOs and the government. Together these provide an overview of their activities and characteristics.

### **Scaling up stigma? The effects of antiretroviral roll-out on stigma and HIV testing. Early evidence from rural Tanzania**

**M. Roura, M. Urassa, J. Busza, D. Mbata, A. Wringe, and B. Zaba, *Sexually Transmitted Infections* (2009) 85(4), 5 pages**

This paper reports on an investigation into the interplay between antiretroviral therapy (ART) scale-up, different types of stigma and Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) uptake two years after the introduction of free ART in a rural ward of Tanzania. It found that where anticipated stigma prevails, the provision of antiretroviral drugs alone is unlikely to have sufficient impact on VCT uptake. Achieving widespread public health benefits of ART roll-out requires community-level interventions to ensure local acceptability of antiretroviral drugs.

### **Phenotypic data to guide selection of reverse transcriptase inhibitors in second-line therapy following extended virological failure in Uganda**

**N. Ndembu, P. Kaleebu, D. Pillay, et al., XVIII International HIV Drug Resistance Workshop, Fort Myers, Florida, USA, 9–13 June, 2009, poster**

NORA was a randomised double-blind trial conducted in two clinical centres in Uganda as a nested sub-study within the DART trial. The aim was to determine drug susceptibility (fold resistance for specific NRTI and NNRTI) in both the AVP and NVP arms of NORA at wk0 and wk96 (in samples with VL>1000C/mL and excluding those going on to a STI after wk48).

### **Evidence-based tropical medicine**

**R. Coombes, *Evidence in Practice*, July 2009, 1 page**

Professor Paul Garner, an expert in infectious diseases on the Advisory Board for the BMJ Evidence Centre and Director of the DFID-funded Effective Health Care Research Consortium shares his thoughts and experiences on evidence-based medicine.

### **Do Effective State Business Relations Matter for Economic Growth? Evidence from Indian States**

**D. Maiti and S. Marjit, Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth Discussion Paper No.30, 2009, 58 pages**

Effective state–business relations are a set of highly institutionalised, responsive and public interactions between the state and the business sector. This paper examines the impact of effective state–business relations on economic growth across Indian states from 1985 to 2006. We propose a measure that captures the various dimensions of effective state–business relations at sub-national level, and estimate standard growth regressions using dynamic panel data methods with this measure, controlling for other determinants of sub-national level growth. Our results show that effective state-business relations contribute significantly to economic growth.

### **Natural resources and chronic poverty**

**A. Shah, CPRC Working Paper No.152, 2009, 31 pages**

Natural resources perform multiple functions as a driver, maintainer, potential exit route, and also an effective escape mechanism in the context of poverty dynamics, especially in a predominantly agrarian economy such as India. The discourse on poverty reduction, however, has often overlooked some of the major concerns of natural resource management, despite recognising the criticality of agricultural growth for reducing rural poverty in the country. This paper presents an overview of the interface between natural resources and poverty in India and

pleads for better equity and sustainability in resource management by ensuring sustained investment in support institutions at various levels.

### **Overcoming Apartheid Health Care to Achieve Equitable Access to ART: Exploring resource requirements in South Africa**

#### **CREHS Policy Brief, November 2009, 2 pages**

Achieving the health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the scaling up of HIV-treatment, requires increased domestic resources, better coordinated funding flows, and an overall focus on health systems' strengthening (Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems, 2009). In South Africa, the respectable 7.3% of GDP spent on health care masks a highly unequal distribution of resources between the public and private health systems. Only 3% is spent in the public sector where the majority poor access care. This research explores the affordability of equitable access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) in South Africa by and beyond 2020, within the context of the proposed National Health Insurance system.

### **Conditional Cash Transfers: A 'Pathway to Women's Empowerment'?**

#### **M. Molyneux, Pathways Brief No.5, 2009, 4 pages**

Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) are widely seen as an effective means of combating poverty and promoting human development. Programmes of this type provide mothers of school age children in extreme poverty with a cash subsidy conditional on children's attendance at school and health clinics. Whilst studies show that CCTs are usually successful in meeting their principle human development objectives of improving school attendance, and the nutrition and health of children (including girl children) in beneficiary households, on reviewing the flagship Mexican programme Progres/Oportunidades, claims that CCTs empower women are questionable.

### **'No fee' schools in South Africa**

#### **S. Motala and Y. Sayed, CREATE Policy Brief Number 7, 2009, 4 pages**

This policy brief provides a broad overview of policy changes in South African education with a particular focus on education financing and the recent introduction of the 'no fee' policy. It concludes with some critical observations about the success of this policy and its implementation.

### **CIARD Pathways Writeshop May 2009**

#### **Training Event report, 2009, 10 pages**

The aim of the Writeshop was to consolidate the existing work on the Pathways documents, gather feedback from recent consultations in Egypt and Columbia and adjust materials accordingly, and identify new materials which needed to be written and revise the work schedule accordingly.

### **Stakeholder perceptions of mental health stigma and poverty in Uganda**

#### **J. Ssebunnya, F. Kigozi, C. Lund, D. Kizza, and E. Okello, *Biomed Central International Health and Human Rights* (2009) 9: 5 pages**

Worldwide, there is plentiful evidence regarding the role of stigma in mental illness, as well as the association between poverty and mental illness. The experiences of stigma catalysed by poverty revolve around experiences of devaluation, exclusion, and disadvantage. Although the relationship between poverty, stigma and mental illness has been documented in high-income countries, little has been written on this relationship in low- and middle-income countries. The paper describes the opinions of a range of mental health stakeholders regarding poverty, stigma, mental illness and their relationship in the Ugandan context, as part of a wider study, aimed at exploring policy interventions required to address the vicious cycle of mental ill-health and poverty.

### **COP 15: What's at stake for Africa?**

#### **A.B. Kaere, Working Paper 1, Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Programme Working Paper Series, 2009, 18 pages**

Africa has much at stake in the global discussions taking place at the 15th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 15) in Copenhagen (December 2009) and the issues are many and complex due to the continent's high level of vulnerability to climate change and its low level of resources. This paper addresses the four key areas under negotiation – mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfers/capacity building – providing an African perspective on the issues at stake and the positions advanced by various parties.

## **TB in the Workplace – the Case of Garment Workers in Bangladesh**

**L. Brehmer, 2009, 2 pages**

The workplace is an ideal venue for workers to receive TB treatment as an alternative to attending an external health facility. The workplace is a safe and convenient location where communication systems are already in place and existing structures, services and facilities can be used for prevention, care, and support as well as to create awareness among managers and staff on a regular basis.

## **Health Workers and Health Knowledge as Avenues of Empowerment**

**Women's Empowerment in Muslim Contexts (WEMC) Case study, 2009, 11 pages**

The Iranian Ministry of Health's Voluntary Health Workers (VHW) Program delivers basic health and family planning information to in low-income neighbourhoods. This research project learned that women taking part in the VHW Program had acquired an opportunity to redefine their own role, at least within their family and household and in their community. In the process of delivering information, using the legitimacy that the Islamic Republic had bestowed on them, they extended the role of women as wives and mothers from the restricted focus of domestic affairs to a vast array of public participation in the lives of their neighbourhoods.

## **Community-led total sanitation (CLTS) across the seas: Experiences from Africa with a special emphasis on Ethiopia**

**L. Mehta, RiPPLE, 2009, 39 pages**

This paper tracks the origins of Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and highlights its key tenets. It discusses how it spread from Bangladesh to other countries in Asia and the African continent and asks whether initial success has led to the generation of myths about the extent to which the approach really generates ODF (open defecation free) communities. It discusses challenges concerning monitoring and evaluation and going to scale and issues of social, technological and institutional sustainability. The paper then focuses in depth on Ethiopia.

## **Exceptional epidemics: AIDS still deserves a global response**

**A. Whiteside and J. Smith, *Globalization and Health* (2009) 5:15**

There has been a renewed debate over whether AIDS deserves an exceptional response. We argue that as AIDS is having differentiated impacts depending on the scale of the epidemic, and population groups impacted, so responses must be tailored accordingly. AIDS is exceptional, but not everywhere. Exceptionalism developed as a Western reaction to a once poorly understood epidemic, but remains relevant in the current multi-dimensional global response.

## **Campaign finance distorts Nigerian elections**

**R. Gutierrez Romero, iiG Briefing Paper 07, 2009, 2 pages**

This study in Nigeria looked at to what extent campaign finance determines electoral victory. The briefing paper outlines the study's findings and concludes that the Nigerian government should strengthen the ability of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to monitor campaign finance. It should also demand greater accountability from candidates on their campaign spending. Enforcing such rules will be an important step forward towards improving the democratic process and stability of the country.

## **Radio and Development in Africa**

**M. Myers, 2008, revised 2009, 55 pages**

This report identifies and discusses the issues of gender and minority access and inclusion in radio broadcasting; the issue of inciting violence and radio's 'double-edged' nature in vulnerable societies; the whole question of sustainability and whether or not developmental – and/or 'public-service' – radio is a viable concern from an economic standpoint. Underlying all these questions remains the challenge of how precisely to measure the impact of radio; finding appropriate methodological tools and forums to do so; and the problem of defining and researching behaviour change.

## **A Case for Multilateral Investment in Avian Flu Prevention**

**T. Sproul, D. Zilberman, D. Roland-Holst, and J. Otte, HPAI Research Brief No.17, 2009, 4 pages**

The influenza virus is a perennial companion of human society, posing substantial direct threats to lives and livelihoods and indirect mutagenic risk in animal populations. Realistic investments to manage this risk, including public spending on research, public health, and agro-food practices, may seem large as individual commitments, but they are small relative to the cost of averted mortality and economic damages. Prevention of contagious

disease is a global commons, with economic benefits to each nation commensurate with their living standards. There is a strong case for significant and sustained multilateral coordination and investment.

### **Uptake of Research in Policy and Practice: Perspectives of policy makers and researchers SPLASH Fact Sheet 5, 2009, 2 pages**

It is recognised that there are insufficient linkages between research, policy and practice at each stage of designing, conducting and communicating research to policymakers and practitioners, which mean that the use of research can be limited. The reasons for these gaps may be perceived differently by members of the research and policymaking communities. This fact sheet highlights these differing perceptions.

### **Seminar on library capacity building for the achievement of the MDGs in West Africa**

#### **Internal Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Africa Section, 2009, 2 pages**

This leaflet summaries document describes the outcomes of a seminar on library capacity-building that took place in Accra, Ghana, 1–3 June, 2009. Also included is a summary of library capacity building strategies/initiatives towards the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in West Africa.

### **Equity and Quality? Challenges for Early Childhood and Primary Education in Ethiopia, India and Peru**

#### **M. Woodhead, P. Ames, U. Vennam, W. Abebe and N. Streuli, Young Lives Working Paper 55, 2009, 92 pages**

The potential of quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) to transform young lives is increasingly recognised. The challenge now is to realise this potential in practice. This paper asks about the everyday experiences of early education of children in Ethiopia, India and Peru, based on a sample of 2,000 children in each of the three countries. It discusses issues of access and quality in both urban and rural settings, in contexts where government programmes are well established as well as in contexts where the private sector dominates.

### **Linking International Agricultural Research Knowledge with Action for Sustainable Poverty Alleviation: What Works?**

#### **P. Kristjanson, R. Reid, N. Dickson, et al., CID Working Paper No.173, 2008, 57 pages**

This paper asks ‘What kinds of approaches and institutions, under what sorts of conditions, are most effective for harnessing scientific knowledge in support of strategies for environmentally sustainable development and poverty alleviation?’ In applying an innovative conceptual framework to a diverse set of sustainable poverty-focused projects undertaken in numerous African and Asian countries, we found that strategies key to closing gaps between knowledge and action include: combining different kinds of knowledge, learning and bridging approaches, strong and diverse partnerships that level the playing field, and building capacity to innovate and communicate.

### **More documents**

## **Recent News Stories**

### **What future globalisation?**

A conference to be held in January 2010 and hosted by the Global Development Network (GDN) will explore the impact of the financial crisis on the process of globalization. More than 450 leading thinkers will come together in Prague to offer regional responses to the global crisis and reforming global financial governance. The winners of the Japanese-funded Global Development Awards and Medals Competition 2009 will be also announced at GDN’s 11<sup>th</sup> Annual conference, which will be held for the first time in Europe.

### **Good review for the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) from Philanthropy Advisory Service**

The Philanthropy Advisory Service (PAS) of the FasterCures/The Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions has just published an organisation report for the Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), which shows an outstanding and strong performance in the metrics for accountability, collaboration and research effectiveness, and its

resource building performance is rated as acceptable. The report examined MMV's strategy, research portfolio, management and financials, and presents an assessment of its operations and research portfolio.

### **CGIAR unveils its new strategy for agricultural development**

Climate change will threaten agricultural production. Without changes in agricultural systems, the food security and livelihoods of millions of people, particularly in the developing world, will be affected. The contributions of agriculture and forestry to climate change also need to be considered in any mitigation strategies. CGIAR's report 'Climate, agriculture and food security: A strategy for change' highlights the importance of agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation and demonstrates the importance of the CGIAR in moving the science agenda forward.

### **DFID seeks feedback on the new DFID website – deadline extended for submissions**

DFID is asking for feedback on the new DFID website, launched earlier this year. The site has been redesigned and now has Web 2.0 functionality, including the use of embedded video, feeds from R4D, and links to a group of DFID staff bloggers. A top level of information on 'Fighting Poverty' describes DFID's work for a general public audience, and links to more in-depth content.

### **Food miles mantra can be miles worse for climate and communities**

Launched on Friday, 11 December, 2009 at the 'Development and Climate Days' in Copenhagen, 'Fair Miles: Recharting the foodmiles map' says that locally produced food can actually cause greater emissions of greenhouse gases, and that consumers can harm the livelihoods of poor farmers in developing nations if they stop buying their produce. The book was produced in response to growing calls for consumers to 'eat local' to help tackle climate change – calls that the book's authors say do not tell the full story.

### **IPPG researcher wins the prestigious African Professorship Competition**

Dr Jean Claude Saha, of the University of Ngaoundere, Cameroon, who works with the DFID-funded Improving Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth (IPPG) research programme consortium, was one of the top laureates at a recent professorship competition. Known in french as the *Concours d'Agregation en Sciences Juridiques, Politiques, Economiques et de Gestion*, it is organised every two years by the Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Superieur (CAMES). Dr – now Professor – Saha was second of the nine economics candidates who succeeded.

### **CGIAR and CCAA at COP15**

Staff from both the CGIAR and the joint International Development Research Centre (IDRC)/DFID-funded Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (CCAA) programme hosted and took part in the recent climate conference in Copenhagen. Partner organisations included ARDD and CIFOR.

### **Non-state actors lobby to influence budget outcomes in Zambia**

A recent report from Improving Institutions for Pro-poor Growth (IPPG), 'How non-state actors lobby to influence budget outcomes in Zambia', explores the role of non-state actors such as business interest groups and the media in shaping tax and expenditure policies through formal budget processes. The data produced indicates that attempts to encourage the participation of non-state actors in putting together the budget have been effective.

### **Radio, convergence and development in Africa: Call for concept notes**

Carleton University's Centre for Media and Transitional Societies (CMTS), in collaboration with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), is pleased to launch a call for concept notes, in French or English, outlining proposed research examining the impact of convergence between traditional radio and new information and communications technologies (ICTs) in sub-Saharan Africa. Concept notes are due **January 8, 2010**.

### **Getting research on sexual and reproductive health into practice**

The latest edition of *insights*, 'Getting research into policy and practice', looks at the effectiveness of research on sexual and reproductive health, and HIV and AIDS in influencing decision-making and bringing about change. It includes contributions from four DFID-funded Research Programme Consortia: Addressing the Balance of Burden in AIDS, Evidence for Action, Programme for Research and Capacity Building in Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV in Developing Countries and Realising Rights.

### **New funding announced for Ecosystems Services for Poverty Alleviation research**

The Department for International Development (DFID), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) are pleased to announce £40.5 million for the Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) research programme. ESPA is launched under the umbrella of the Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) partnership and presents a unique opportunity to build strong links between the natural, social and economic sciences and international development. Proposals are due at **16:00 on 3 March, 2010**.

### **Research Dialogue: Have your say!!!**

*Research Dialogue* offers an informal look at DFID-funded research and development research generally. Our ambition for the Dialogue blog is to create discussion around research outputs, ask critical questions, and bring to life both old and new research. Help make *Research Dialogue* a dynamic information source and platform by commenting on stories, identifying related research for other users, and by simply giving us your thoughts. You can also sign up to our regular e-alert.

### **Keep up-to-date on chronic poverty**

The Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) is keeping everyone up to date with their Chronic Poverty Blog – news, views, research and comment on chronic poverty issues. Sign up for their email update, and join in the discussions.

### **New Research and Advocacy Fund launched to improve maternal and child health in Pakistan**

The UK and Australia have launched a new £18.3 million Research and Advocacy Fund (RAF) to improve the lives of mothers and children across Pakistan – the first fund of its kind in the country. Every year, 15,000 women in Pakistan die from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. Over 60 per cent of births are not attended by skilled professionals. The RAF initiative will support both organisations and individuals doing research to help ensure improved access to and quality of maternal and newborn health services and health policy reforms research and advocacy projects.

### **Research Into Use launches RIUtv**

The team at RIU has recently launched an online television channel – RIUtv. The RIU communications team has developing a highly flexible and cost-effective network of feeders to the RIUtv channel. In addition to RIU's television correspondent and a team of sub-contracted local cameramen throughout Africa, RIU has equipped and provided initial training to staff in each of their African Country Programmes to enable them to make their own films and share their emerging stories via the RIU website. RIU has also recruited a network of specialist media companies to help them place success stories with a wide range of national and international media - print, radio, television and web.

### **Collaboration through knowledge – new online tool for development sciences**

The UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS) – which aims to maximise the contribution of UK research to international development – has launched a new website to provide a single online source of information for researchers, policymakers and funders concerned with development sciences research. Featuring funding and job opportunities, events, news and key publications, [www.ukcds.org.uk](http://www.ukcds.org.uk) is organised into five key themes of Agriculture, Economy & Society, Environment, Health and Science, and Innovation and Engineering.

### **Final winners – Guardian International Development Journalism Competition 2009**

The results of the *Guardian* International Development Journalism Competition 2009 were announced on 19 November, 2009 at a ceremony at the Royal Academy of Arts. The winners were Nash Colundalur (amateur winner) who wrote about the impact of the four-year drought in Kenya, and Preeti Jha (professional winner) who wrote about the effects of climate change on pastoralist communities in the same region of Africa. Special commendations were also made to amateur finalist Alison Buckler who wrote about maternal health in Nepal, and professional finalist Mary Griffin, writing on the struggle faced by the Dalit women of Bangladesh to overcome oppression.

### **WorldFish Center explores challenges to fisheries' sustainability posed by climate change**

Researchers and policymakers are becoming increasingly aware of the impacts climate change is having on coastal and riparian environments, and on the fisheries they support. Bringing sustainability to fisheries and meeting these challenges will inevitably become more difficult as the climate changes. The WorldFish Center has highlighted the importance of understanding the linkages between climate change, livelihoods and food security.

### **New tool for more accurate antimalarial dosing**

In countries where malaria is endemic antimalarials are often bought from shops or street vendors and administered at home. Functioning scales are rarely available to weigh patients and calculate the appropriate dose required. Instead, doses are usually based on age, and many patients receive doses above or below the effective dose range. Scientists at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) and their partners have developed a method which enables appropriate age-based dose regimens to be determined for both children and adolescents.

[More news stories](#)

## **About R4D – DFID's research portfolio on your desktop**

R4D contains a searchable database of more than 5,000 project records and the details of more than 21,500 outputs from research funded by DFID's Central Research Department during the past 10 years. It also includes research activities prior to 2005 in Rural Livelihoods, Health, Social Sciences, Education, and Infrastructure and Urban Development. Every month we add new projects, documents, and outputs.

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