



## Global Health Trials: Call for outline proposals



The UK Department for International Development, the UK Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust are committing up to £12 million per year for the next three years to fund late-stage trials of health interventions.

Proposals are now invited from academic groups, based either in the countries where the studies will take place or in the UK, to submit plans for interventions that will contribute to improving health in low- and middle-income countries by addressing the major causes of mortality or morbidity. The submission deadline for outline applications is 16.00 BST, 15 September 2010. Please register your interest in applying by 13 August 2010.

## DFID Research 2009 to 2010 showcases a year of progress



DFID has published its first research report highlighting research achievements over the past twelve months. DFID Research 2009-2010 describes all current research projects along with 26 case studies

which demonstrate immediate and long-term impact on poverty reduction.

The report covers progress across the major research themes of Human Development, Agriculture, Growth, Conflict and Social Development, and Climate and Environmental Change. It illustrates how investments in research provide long-term value for money by identifying the most effective technologies, interventions, and practices to improve international development results.



## Research Fellows

Wendy Graham took up her post in DFID in June 2009, and spends 20 per cent of her time working for DFID. She is Professor of Obstetric Epidemiology at the University of Aberdeen.



## The Politics of Poverty

A new DFID synthesis report, *The Politics of Poverty: Elites, Citizens and States*, outlines research from four major DFID-funded research programmes.

## Latest Blogs

### The Truth about Democracy



On the back of the recent general election in the UK it seems apt to consider how fortunate we are...

### Researchers 'Get off the Dance-Floor' at Politics of Poverty Conference



Researchers had the chance to 'get off the dance-floor and take a bird's eye view from the balcony' at the Politics of Poverty conference...

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## New Projects:

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### **Africa: Building capacity for better governance and social policy research**

This project aims to strengthen the capacity of partner higher education and research institutions to bridge the gaps between research, policy and practice in the areas of governance and social policy.



### **Mobilising Knowledge for Development (MK4D) Phase 2**

Phase 2 of MK4D is to strengthen the emerging global network of information intermediaries in order to increase the sharing and effective use of research knowledge. Phase Two differs significantly from Phase One as it aims to build capacity amongst Southern partners to develop and manage content for their own Knowledge services. There is a strong emphasis on shifting power and capacity from the IDS central service to a more devolved model of knowledge and information services. This recognises a need for information services to be more relevant and contextual to those who use them.

### **AERAS Global TB Vaccine Foundation (AERAS)**

AERAS will develop effective TB vaccine regimens that will prevent tuberculosis in all age groups and will be affordable, available and adopted worldwide. AERAS has worked with others to develop a



portfolio of six vaccine candidates which they plan to progress over the next five years. This is the broadest TB vaccine product pipeline in the world. The aim is to license the first new effective TB vaccine in 2015-2016.



### **Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)**

FIND will aim to drive the development and implementation of accurate and affordable diagnostics that are appropriate to patient care in low resource settings. FIND addresses the gap in research and development of diagnostic tests. There is increasing need for appropriate and affordable tests, created by the increased scale-up of global health initiatives including those for HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, and other infectious diseases. Diagnostics are needed that do not require extensive laboratory infrastructure and that can be used by health workers with a minimum of training.



### **PATH Diarrhoeal Disease vaccine (PDD)**

PDD will aim to reduce the global burden of diarrhoeal disease morbidity and mortality, specifically among children in the world's poorest countries through the development of new rotavirus, Shigella, and ETEC vaccines. PDD is housed within PATH, an international organisation that creates sustainable solutions to help poor communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health.



### **Literature review on rates of return to research**

DFID commissioned work on the rates of return to research in 2005 which looked at the general literature and specifically reviewed work on agriculture and health. Building on this work this project will re-visit the literature on the rates of return in order to establish how robust the evidence is and where possible to tease out the evidence on returns to different types of research. For example, the project would like to identify where possible the difference in returns to research on issues such as Agriculture and Health (which might be easier to quantify) and more policy related research. It will also review qualitative case studies that give some further answers to the potential impact of research.



### **Institute for Oneworld Health (IOWH)**

The Institute for OneWorld Health, (iOWH) was founded in 2000 as an independent, not-for-profit organisation which is discovering, developing, and delivering safe, effective, and affordable new medicines for people suffering from some of the world's most neglected and infectious diseases: visceral leishmaniasis (VL), malaria, soil-transmitted helminthiasis diseases (STH), and diarrhoeal diseases. This iOWH project will support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce child mortality and infectious disease burdens, through the development of six to eight clinical projects to target visceral leishmaniasis, malaria, soil-transmitted helminths, and diarrhoeal diseases.



### **Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund's Research Into Business (AECF-RIB)**

AECF was launched in 2008 and is housed within the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an African-led partnership-based organization. AGRA works across the African continent to help millions of small-scale farmers and their families lift themselves out of poverty and hunger. After securing matching funds from private businesses, AECF-RIB will co-finance strong, innovative business plans to get research products into the hands of farmers in Africa.



### **Future Agricultures Consortium (FAC) Phase 2**

Future Agricultures Consortium is a multidisciplinary and independent learning alliance of academic researchers and practitioners involved in African agriculture. They aim to encourage dialogue and the sharing of good practice by policymakers and opinion formers in Africa on the role of agriculture in broad based growth. Collectively they offer a responsive mode of working, so they can engage with policy debates and issues as they arise. In the new phase, 2010 – 2013, FAC will expand to work in over ten countries across Africa, involving over 50 researchers from African and UK institutions.



### **World Federation of Science Journalists: Consolidating Science Journalism in Africa and the Middle East. (SjCOOP) Phase Two**

SjCOOP Phase Two builds upon the achievements and lessons of Phase One but is more ambitious in scope. It will still provide training, but mentees will then be expected to put the training into immediate use on specific health, environmental and scientific key issues for Africa and the Arab World. Because of its unique relationship with African and Arab journalists, SjCOOP will be able to document how the stories which have influenced policy will have been constructed. The impact of the stories on policy and decision making will also be captured. In the

end, this project will produce lessons on how the media, in Africa and in the Arab World, can influence policy. The project will also consolidate the new burgeoning relationships between a corps of journalists dedicated to reporting scientific issues and scientific communities, in Africa and in the Arab World.



### **African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)**

DFID is providing a financial contribution to the core budget of the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) over the period 2010–2015 to help it implement plans set out in the 2010–15 Strategic Plan, 'AERC A hallmark of excellence'. DFID will fund a complementary consultancy. The first task is primarily to provide a 'benefit-in-kind' to AERC by reinforcing academic rigour in AERC's capacity building efforts through the Research Workshops. The second task will also facilitate the first one, by giving DFID's representative on the AERC Board a deeper insight into AERC's operational activities.



### **African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF) – Phase 2**

AATF is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to increasing the productivity of resource-poor farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Its mission is to improve food security and reduce poverty by providing smallholders with greater access to improved farming technologies and know-how. In pursuit of this mission, AATF's structure and operations draw on the best practices followed by both public and private-sector institutions. AATF facilitates and promotes public/private partnerships whose purpose is to ensure that African farmers have access to agricultural technologies that improve their productivity.

## New Documents:

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### **The Current Global Economic Crisis and Migration: Policies and practice in origin and destination**

R. Skeldon, Migration, Globalisation and Poverty DRC Working Paper T32, 14 pages, 2010

This paper looks at the effect of the present economic crisis on migration, considering effects on both source and destination countries. Some suggestions for policy makers are made.



### **DART Anti-retroviral Trial**

Medical Research Council, Video, 2009

This short (2:41) film from Uganda describes the DART trial, which found that many expensive routine tests administered in richer countries to HIV-infected patients are of little benefit to African patients. Omitting these tests saves money and enables treatment by health workers in villages, so patients do not have to travel to distant health centres. The savings allow more patients to be treated. Currently only about a third of the 6 million Africans who need antiretroviral therapy actually get it



### **Tobacco Advertising in Cambodia: A case study to support tobacco control law**

National Center for Health Promotion (NCHP), Cambodia. 35 pages, 2009

This study aimed to document, illustrate and review the intensifying advertising campaigns by the tobacco industry and to assess their effects on the Cambodian public. Study findings suggest that Cambodian people are aware that tobacco ads are very dangerous and they support a ban on all kinds of advertisement, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products, but support for other tobacco-control policies such as increased taxation, smoke-free areas and picture health warnings on cigarette packs was very low indicating the lack of understanding of such policies.



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### **'Plant Doctors': A global prescription for plant pests**

S. Wilson, Issues (2010) Vol.90, 4 pages, 2010

The role of the Global Plant Clinic (GPC) in gathering information on



plant pests and diseases from some of the hardest to reach farmers in the world is described. This approach has enabled the GPC to publish 44 new disease records in the past three years –scientific records that are crucial to improving our knowledge of the movement and phytosanitary (plant safety) risks of plant pests.



### **Income Diversification Through Improved Irrigation in Ethiopia: Impacts, constraints and prospects for poverty reduction**

Samson Eshetu, Belayneh Belete and Degeye Goshu, et al., RIPPLE Working Paper 14, 62 pages, 2010

This Working Paper is based on research conducted in three sites in GoroGutu woreda, East Harerghe Zone, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia, from January to May 2009. The research examined the potential for irrigation to increase household resilience and contribute to poverty reduction and pro-poor growth through enabling households to diversify incomes – both commercial crop production and new forms of non-farm income generation.



### **Access to HIV Treatment and Care Amongst Commercial Sex Workers in Malawi**

K. Chikaphupha, P. Nkhonjera, I. Namakhoma, and R. Loewenson, A Participatory Reflection and Action (PRA) Project Report, REACH Trust and Equinet, 25 pages, 2009

This study aimed to explore and address barriers to coverage and uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services among commercial sex workers (CSWs) in Area 25, Lilongwe district, Malawi, using Participatory Reflection and Action (PRA) methods. It explored barriers to accessing HIV and AIDS treatment and care services amongst CSWs and, in a participatory manner, ways of overcoming the barriers, including empowerment of a group of CSWs in the study location.



### **Understanding the Research to Policy Process in Zambia: The case of cotrimoxazole preventative therapy**

E. Hutchinson and J. Parkhurst, Evidence for Action Working Paper 2, 4 pages, August 2009

This study, conducted by members of the Evidence for Action research consortium on HIV treatment and care, aimed to understand the process by which policy change happens in Zambia, in order to learn how to best facilitate the uptake of research evidence into policy. It used CPT as a case study. Methods included document review and interviews with key informants involved in the policy process. The fieldwork was conducted and completed in 2008.



### **Analysis of the Value Chain for Biogas in Tanzania Northern Zone (Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara)**

N.T. Nyagabona and D.R. Olomi, 32 pages, 2009

This study explored weaknesses in the biogas value chain that hinder wider dissemination of the technology in Tanzania. The research included assessment of processes and activities carried out by the players, the influencers and business supporters of the biogas value chain. The methodology combined literature review with focus group discussions, interviews with actors and observations of processes across the value chain in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, where biogas has the longest history in Tanzania.



### **Global Agricultural Research Archive Website**

CABI, 2010

The Global Agricultural Research Archive is a new initiative that aims to archive agricultural knowledge on behalf of developing countries around the world. The pilot database currently contains more than 2,700 full text records from institutional partners in Malawi, Pakistan and the Philippines and from the 2008 IAALD conference on agricultural information and IT. You can search for journal articles, books, and reports on subjects ranging from crop science to fish farming



### **Building Public Support for Anti-Corruption Efforts: Why anti-corruption agencies need to communicate and how**

E. Byrne, A.K. Arnold and F. Nagano, CommGAP, 74 pages, 2010

This paper provides a practical overview of how an agency could work with the media to win the support of the public in the fight against corruption. It is intended as a 'how to' guide to help agencies understand how to control the way they present themselves to the public, how to frame agencies' work, and how to develop allies in the press and the community at large.

## R4D News:

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### **Reaping rewards: DFID's support to the media**

African journalist and DFID-funded trainee, Busani Bafana, has been awarded the prestigious 2009 CGIAR Science Award for Outstanding Agricultural Journalism for his article 'A Better Banana for Africa', published by IPS Africa. The next course, targeting southern African journalists, will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, in October, 2010. Interested applicants should apply before 31 July 2010.



### **Commercialisation of East Coast Fever vaccine will benefit livestock farmers in Africa**

Livestock farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are to benefit from the commercialization of a vaccine against East Coast Fever. The Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), a not-for-profit organisation funded by DFID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is working to secure the sustainability of supply of the vaccine, which could save the affected countries at least £175 million a year.



### **'Just give money to the poor' and 'What works for the poorest?'**

The Chronic Poverty Research Centre launched two new books. Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South (Joseph Hanlon, Armando Barrientos, David Hulme) challenges a simple yet powerful solution to poverty reduction that is sweeping across the South: to give money directly to the poor. What works for the Poorest? Poverty Reduction Programmes for the World's Extreme Poor (David Lawson, David Hulme, Imran Matin, Karen Moore) creates important knowledge about the poorest – because poverty reduction goals will be most successful when the issues of the extremely poor are addressed.



### **International Colloquium on Adaptation to Climate Change**

Access to good information will be a key factor in identifying appropriate solutions to the problems associated with climate change adaptation. An international colloquium on 'Adaptation to climate change: Strategies for exchange and sharing of information for the benefit of communities' is being held in Dakar, Senegal, on the 6-8 July, 2010. It will provide a platform where experiences of sharing knowledge on adaptation to climate change can be exchanged.



## **Will water and sanitation services be able to withstand climate change?**

WHO has just published a report from a study jointly funded with DFID on the resilience of water and sanitation services to climate changes expected by 2020 and 2030. The Vision 2030 study is the first global assessment of potential resilience in the sector and shows that much more needs to be done to improve planning in the light of climate change.



## **Complex crises: The challenge of finding and sharing evidence**

In the lives of the world's poorest people the repercussions of 2008's global financial crisis are just one of a recent series of severe and sustained shocks – including food and fuel price hikes, changing climate, HIV/AIDS epidemics and concerns about security. A recent Crisis Watch workshop at IDS explored how these different shocks are interacting to affect people's lives and how we can better monitor these impacts to inform government policies that help people become more resilient.



## **Policy versus practice: Testing for syphilis in pregnancy**

The 18th annual meeting of The International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (ISSTD) brought together researchers from around the world to discuss new and groundbreaking research. A good example of the research presented and discussed at the event was work that shows how policy does not always mirror practice in the testing for syphilis in pregnancy.



## **UK scientists reaching out to the developing world**

A number of UK learned and professional societies are actively providing support to developing country scientists – students, scholars, teachers and researchers. The UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (UKCDS) has just launched a new section of its website dedicated to highlighting the capacity-building activities of the UK learned and professional societies.

## **Tackling TB–HIV stigma**

According to the WHO, 2 billion people live with tuberculosis –one third of the world's population. The 'Global Plan to Stop TB 2006–2015' aims to give everyone access to treatment, and to develop new, more efficient drugs, vaccines and tools. It also wants to target the challenges of the TB–HIV stigma and multidrug-resistant TB.



*"There is a TB patient and the other 2 people are staying far away from the patient because they don't want to be infected with the disease."*

*Girl aged 14, Kamukala Street Children*



## **British comic book hero helps spread agricultural messages to young Kenyans**

Hunt Emerson, British comic book legend and renowned Beano contributor, is just back from working with the team behind an innovative youth communication initiative in Kenya. Shujaaz, a new monthly comic designed to entertain young Kenyans whilst providing them with positive messages and ideas to improve their lives, received funding from the Research into Use (RIU) Best Bets programme.

## **About R4D**

R4D contains a searchable database of more than 5,000 project records and the details of more than 24,500 outputs from research funded by DFID's Research and Evidence Division 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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