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NEWSLETTER
January 2019

New publications

Researchers [testing](#) approaches for encouraging the construction and use of latrines in Ethiopia have published a paper in the [Tropical Medicine and International Health](#) journal that used discrete-choice experiments in their SIEF-funded baseline survey to study preferences for various latrine characteristics like construction materials, privacy, and comfort.

SIEF commissioned research to assess whether the International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) tool measured multiple domains of child development and whether it was suitable for making cross-country comparisons. The results from 5 countries (Afghanistan, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Vietnam) were recently published in the peer-reviewed journal [Developmental Psychology](#). The within-country analysis showed that the individual items of the IDELA measure the intended domains. None of the domains, however, exhibited measurement invariance, and thus it would be inappropriate to compare domain-level scores across countries.

Learn more about SIEF's work in measurement and resources [here](#)

Also see [A Toolkit for Measuring Early Childhood Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)

Events

Can cash transfer recipients be “nudged” to make better choices that will benefit themselves and their families? As part of the roll out of a World Bank supported [social safety net project](#) that gives cash transfers to the poorest households in Madagascar, SIEF researchers are [testing the impact](#) of adding in community meetings on healthy development with behavioral “nudges” to increase mothers’ self-esteem and help them take positive steps for their children’s future. The research team presented midline results at [a World Bank event on January 23](#).

SIEF co-sponsored a discussion on efforts by UNICEF and the World Health Organization to develop population measures that can be used for global monitoring of children's health, learning, and psychosocial wellbeing. Alaka Holla, SIEF's program manager, gave introductory remarks [at the event](#).



Our people in the news

What's the impact of language on gender norms? Research by Owen Ozier, a SIEF researcher and World Bank economist, on gendered language and its impacts on norms and economic opportunities was [discussed](#) in the online news policy forum Modern Diplomacy.



[Harsha Thirumurthy](#), a researcher on a [SIEF health evaluation in India](#) and a University of Pennsylvania professor, recently [published results](#) from an impact evaluation in Uganda that found that financial incentives weren't successful at encouraging HIV-positive people to stick to antiretroviral therapy.



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