

Government scale-up of a SIEF-evaluated intervention

This month the Government of Bangladesh announced that it would extend its provision of preprimary school to two years. [According to bdnews24.com](#), “Officials at the Ministry of Mass Education say a two-year pre-primary education curriculum will be launched in 2,563 public primary schools in the first phase next year. The system will then be expanded in all schools across the country in phases in the next three to four years.” Recently [a SIEF-funded evaluation](#) provided the government with experimental evidence on the impacts of extending preschool to two years. The [evaluation found](#) large increases in preschool enrollment, driven mostly by children who would have stayed at home otherwise. Children’s school readiness improved at the end of the first year, and these gains persisted one year later when children were measured prior to entering primary school.



This month SIEF published [an Evidence to Policy note](#) on [a SIEF-supported evaluation](#) in Madagascar that tested different approaches to tackle child malnutrition and improve child development – in particular, adding additional packages to the country’s existing community-based nutrition program that included providing nutritional supplements to children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, as well as home-based counselling to parents to optimize their children’s growth and development. After two years, the evaluation found that the nutritional supplements for children were effective at helping children grow, but only if kids received the supplements starting at six months of age. Additional supplementation to pregnant women did not augment impacts for their children. Home visiting to parents, on the other hand, led to only limited impacts: children ate better, but the changes were not enough to improve growth or children’s cognitive, motor, or social development. More detail is available in the research team’s [paper](#) that was published in the *Lancet Global Health* and their [paper](#) in the *Journal of Nutrition*, as well as in a [recorded SIEF seminar](#).

