

Learning about impact evaluations online

Recently the World Bank's Open Learning Campus launched a course on the edX platform that SIEF produced with Georgetown University, [Evaluating Impact in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#). Identifying effective policies is a process of trial and error, innovation and experimentation, success and failure. This course provides the basic scientific and statistical tools needed to identify whether a policy or program is generating impact. Organized into modules, the course covers topics ranging from the attribution problem to what is meant by statistical significance (margin of error) to the analysis of data generated by a randomized control trial. The course also helps answer practical questions related to impact evaluation, such as how large of a sample is needed and what can be done when compliance with an experimental design is imperfect or when data is missing for part of the sample. While learners can audit the course for free, they can also opt for a verified track for USD 5 in which they can take graded assignments and exams and obtain a certificate of completion.

Live tutoring during the pandemic

How well did remote instruction support children's learning during the pandemic? A research team that was part of SIEF's [COVID-19 Emergency Window](#) recently [published their findings](#) from an [evaluation in Sierra Leone](#) in the *Journal of Development Economics*. Results suggest that live calls from teachers designed to supplement the radio lessons organized by the government increased engagement in educational activities but did not increase the likelihood that children listened to educational radio. More importantly, the tutoring did not improve learning in mathematics or language.



