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NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Introducing SIEF's data collection

The [SIEF data collection](#) hosts the baseline, midline, and end line data of evaluations SIEF has funded since 2012, along with the meta-data. World Bank staff may also view the collection on the [Bank's intranet](#). For more information on the evaluations that are part of the data collection and any associated publications, please visit the [evaluation pages](#) of the SIEF website.



Making books matter

In Kenya, children from poor families often enter school without the cognitive and social-emotional skills that can help them start learning. Researchers funded through SIEF are testing whether giving parents in rural Kenya storybooks and short lessons on how to use the books can improve preliteracy skills. In a follow-up six weeks after books were distributed, children whose parents received the books and training had improved vocabularies compared with children whose parents didn't get the books. Just receiving the books, with or without the training, increased the probability of children being read to in the previous three days, and the biggest increase was for illiterate caregivers, who used the pictures to tell a story. The research team will test the children again in a year to see if gains are maintained. For more information, [read a summary of the study here](#).

Capturing cost data – a first mile problem

Why don't we take estimates of costs as seriously as estimates of benefits? In a recent [blog](#), SIEF program manager, Alaka Holla, suggests that we might have a first-mile problem – we don't know how to get started when collecting cost data. She summarizes the basic steps for collecting accurate and useful cost data from a recent [SIEF brief](#) on capturing cost data and requests that teams get in touch (siefimpact@worldbank.org) to share examples and challenges.





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