SIEF-supported researchers have been busy blogging about their work.

Remote implementation and measurement

The COVID pandemic forced researchers to arrange interventions that reached people remotely. They had to make their measurement strategies virtual as well. An evaluation in Ghana from SIEF’s COVID Emergency window is estimating the impact of SMS reminders to parents about engaging with their children’s learning. In a recent blog, researchers reflect on the challenges they faced in reaching households and how they were able to address them, focusing on trust, connectivity, and the training of survey enumerators.

Non-monetary incentives for teachers

Very few governments have adopted performance-based pay for teachers, instead opting for public recognition of good performance. In a SIEF-supported evaluation in Guinea, researchers tested the impacts of public recognition and in-kind rewards (like sacks of rice, radios, phones, televisions, and generators) among teachers in a nationally representative sample of public primary schools. Researchers summarize their results in a recent VoxDev blog, which show significant effects of the in-kind rewards and statistically insignificant effects of public recognition.

Cash and information to fight malnutrition

A SIEF-supported evaluation in Nepal examined the impacts of providing short-duration cash transfers and information on best practices in nutrition and early stimulation through community meetings in Nepal. Researchers found that the cash and information improved mothers’ knowledge and self-reported nutrition practices but did little to improve children’s nutrition. A recent VoxDev talk discusses these results.