Coming soon….

In March, SIEF will launch a new call for proposals focused on evaluations of technology-enabled interventions that aim to improve learning and skills of children and adults. SIEF-supported evaluations will need to generate experimental or quasi-experimental evidence on impacts of technology or methods to improve its use; teams will need to collect micro-data on impacts, implementation fidelity, and costs; and SIEF funds can only cover costs related to evaluation, not costs incurred for project preparation, implementation, or supervision. Researchers will also have the opportunity to propose evaluation designs for specific problems identified by operational teams from the World Bank and DFID working directly with governments. Stay tuned for more details in the next couple of months.

Improving learning in remote areas

SIEF’s latest Evidence to Policy note focuses on a mobile tutoring program in rural Mexico. Recruiting and retaining teachers to work in remote areas is a major challenge, and many low and middle-income countries rely on members of the community to teach local schools, who may have limited education and formal training. SIEF supported an evaluation to measure the impacts of a program in the Chiapas region in which recent university graduates supported teachers in schools, provided one-on-one tutoring to struggling students, and made home visits to encourage parental involvement. The evaluation found that the program improved the rate at which students transitioned from primary to secondary school and parents’ reports of their children’s social-emotional skills. Test scores increased as well. A variant of the program that extended the amount of training that tutors received both before deployment and during their tenure demonstrated slightly higher improvements.
Impact evaluation in practice

Looking for a primer on impact evaluation? The SIEF-supported publication *Impact Evaluation in Practice (second edition)* has been downloaded nearly 140,000 times. The book has also been translated into Portuguese and Spanish, and an earlier edition comes in French as well.