SIEF talks: Nimble RCTs

Economist Dean Karlan came to the World Bank for a SIEF talk about fast, or "nimble", randomized control trials (video, powerpoint). Karlan, a professor at Yale University and the founder of Innovations for Poverty Action, argued that high quality evaluations that yield important information for decision-makers don't have to take multiple years and that the adage "you get what you pay for" doesn't always apply to evaluation work. Many questions related to development can be answered with quick and cheap experiments, he said.

SIEF on the road

SIEF traveled to Guatemala last month for a three-day impact evaluation workshop for policymakers from various branches of the government and local NGOs. The workshop, organized with Guatemala's Ministry of Education and the local World Bank office, was covered widely by the Guatemalan press.

Next month RISE (Research on Improving Systems of Education), a large scale, multi-country research program dedicated to education reform, will bring together high profile academics and policy makers in Washington DC, with presentations from SIEF-supported researchers Barbara Bruns, Jishnu Das, Moussa Blimpo, David Evans, Shwetlana Sabarwal and James Habyarimana among others.

SIEF gets a boost

IEG Director-General Caroline Heider highlighted SIEF's role in generating evidence that development organizations across the world should be using. In a video recorded interview with Rakesh Nangia, the African Development Bank's Director of Operations Evaluation Department, Heider urged the
“development community to tap what’s there, identify where the gaps are so that we can really add value rather than repeat what's already out there.” Nangia agreed, saying that organizations such as SIEF “bring a breadth of experience as well, which would be applicable across several subsectors.”