Another look at cash and health in Tanzania

How do cash transfers conditional on health clinic visits and school attendance affect health-related outcomes? A new study in the World Bank Economic Review takes an updated look at a program implemented in Tanzania in 2010 —originally evaluated with support from SIEF — and finds nuanced impacts. An initial surge in clinic visits disappeared after two-and-a-half years, but there were significant increases in take-up of health insurance and the likelihood of seeking treatment when ill. Read about the original study, and more, here.

Quality doesn’t mean a TV in every school?

SIEF supported researchers have published a paper analyzing the relationship between preschool quality and children’s development in Indonesia (Summary of results here). The authors, who are currently conducting an impact evaluation in Indonesia of community-based childcare centers, conclude that commonly applied international standards of quality should be calibrated for measuring quality in poor areas.

"We are not suggesting that a high bar is undesirable," wrote co-author and World Bank senior economist Amer Hassan in a blog. "We believe that measures of preschool quality should take into account the realities of the local context where they are being applied."

Lifting preschool fees raises attendance in Bulgaria
A SIEF-supported impact evaluation in Bulgaria that examined approaches for improving enrollment and attendance in preschool among poor children, mostly from the Roma and Turkish minority communities, finds that removing school fees helps (Infographic). Attendance didn't improve further when families also received small monthly payments if their children went to preschool. While the cognitive development of ethnic Bulgarian children generally benefitted, ethnic Roma and Turkish children with access to free preschool performed worse than children in communities where families had to pay for preschool. This suggests that making preschool accessible for all children might not be enough to ensure all children benefit from going.