

ANNOUNCEMENT PLENARY STATEMENT

Seizing the Istanbul moment: A commitment to evidence

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The UN Secretary General new report finds that the gap between needs and funds for humanitarian assistance has increased to 47 per cent in 2015. Put another way, humanitarian assistance needs to *double* to meet current needs. Arguably this shortfall is unlikely to be met in the next decade.

It is therefore critical that each dollar of aid help alleviate suffering of people effectively and usefully.

The need for evidence – and the relative absence of it so far – is in fact one of the [concerns voiced by not just 3ie but a host of organisations](#) in the humanitarian sector as a whole. Evidence of different kinds can help answer the question of what is effective. *If* it is effective, is there a large effect or a small effect? Or are there different ways in which the same effect can be achieved?

In a systematic review that 3ie just quality assured, cash transfers and vouchers are effective in both improving and maintaining food security among conflict-affected people. But there is a difference in the kinds of effects transfers and vouchers have. Unconditional cash transfers lead to greater improvements in dietary diversity and quality than food transfers. On the other hand, food transfers are more successful in increasing per capita calorie intake than unconditional cash transfers and vouchers.

The international initiative for impact evaluation or 3ie commits to supporting the production and use of high quality evidence in the humanitarian sector.

Evidence to inform these questions for humanitarian assistance has been coming in very slowly. In 2014, [when 3ie conducted a scoping study](#), we found less than 50 studies that we could call robust and high-quality evaluations of humanitarian assistance programmes. This was after the world had spent more than US\$100 billion in just over a decade!

In collaboration with USAID, UKaid, Danida and the World Food Programme (WFP), [3ie is supporting new evidence](#) to inform programmatically important decisions. We are working with teams in countries, including Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Sudan and Uganda to assess what are the effective measures to prevent and treat moderate and acute malnutrition.

Through these and other efforts, 3ie commits to producing better evidence and data that helps support:

- i. Data and evidence for rapid action.**
- ii. Collecting and standardising data for measuring impact.**
- iii. Evidence and data for improving delivery and last mile delivery challenges.**

- iv. **Working towards creating better incentives for better evidence and data quality.**

Thank you.

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