

Assessing the impact of research relevant to international development: sharing lessons and improving coherence

Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, NE1 2BE
24 January 2011

Resource Sheet: List of recommended reports and links

ESRC

ESRC's impact assessment work – 'Taking Stock' and 'Branching Out' – are available at:

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/impacts-and-findings/impact-assessment/analysis-and-scoping.aspx>

Full reports of the individual policy and practice impact evaluation studies are available at:

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/impacts-and-findings/impact-assessment/policy-practice-impacts.aspx>

The most recent Impact Reports from each of the Research Councils (published on 4th Jan 2012) is a good place to start, eg:

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/2012/Pages/economicimpactreport.aspx>

http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/media/news/2012news/Pages/120103_4.aspx

RCUK

Also a note on the economic impact assessment of the Research councils by Dr Andre de Campos of the Centre for Research in Innovation Management at the University of Brighton:

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/policy/Pages/impactassessment.aspx>

DFID

Sen, Kunal (nd) *Literature review on rates of return to research*.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/r4d/Output/183629/Default.aspx>

HEFCE

The REF 'Assessment framework and guidance on submissions' is available at:

www.ref.ac.uk

A document setting out the REF panel criteria will be relevant has been published:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/pubs/2012/01_12/

BBSRC

From a development point of view the recent impact assessments of research carried out at some of the institutes strategically supported by BBSRC may be of interest, particularly the IAH ones, which are available at: <http://www.iah.ac.uk/ecosoc/index.aspx>

MRC

'Outputs, outcomes and impact of MRC Research'

Each chapter focusses on a different type of output/outcome, or the whole report can be downloaded, available at:

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Achievementsimpact/Outputsoutcomes/MRCe-Val2010/index.htm>

'What's it worth?'

This is a study which focusses on the return of investment in research which was commissioned by MRC, Wellcome Trust and the Academy of Medical Sciences, it is available at: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Publications/Reports/Biomedical-science/WTX052113.htm>

NERC

There are a number of economic valuation reports that NERC Swindon has commissioned, which are available at: <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/using/casestudies/6reports.asp>

Please note that: a) these are economic valuation reports rather than assessment of whether impact has occurred; and b) these may not be relevant approaches for international development; which may more appropriately focus on people and livelihoods, i.e. poverty indicators, rates of literacy, income levels, etc. before and after the research.

ODI

ODI's [Research and Policy in Development Programme](#) undertakes research, advisory work and public affairs on a wide range of issues broadly around maximising the use of research based evidence in development policy and practice. Key publications / resources include: [Bridging Research and Policy in Development: Evidence and the Change Process](#), a book describing some of the early research, some analytical tools and recommendations for researchers.

[Bridging Research and Policy in International Development: An Analytical and Practical Framework](#). A briefing paper summarising the above

[Helping researchers become policy entrepreneurs](#). A briefing paper outlining a practical approach researchers can use to develop a strategy for policy engagement.

RAPID supports two networks across developed and developing countries:

1. the [Evidence-based Policy in Development Network](#): individuals and organisations interested in how to maximise the use of research-based evidence in development policy and practice; and
2. the [Outcome Mapping Learning Community](#): individuals and organisations using and developing outcome-mapping tools to improve the impact of their work.

RAPID also runs workshops, seminars and training courses and provides longer-term capacity development support through collaborative work, staff exchanges and mentoring and has produced a wide range of analytical publications and practical approaches and toolkits including:

[Tools for Policy Impact: A Handbook for Researchers](#) ODI Toolkits, September 2004

[Successful Communication: A Toolkit for Researchers and Civil Society Organisations](#) ODI Toolkits, September 2005

[Policy Engagement for Poverty Reduction: How civil society can be more effective](#) ODI

Briefing Papers 3, May 2006

[Developing capacities for better research uptake: the experience of ODI's Research and Policy in Development programme](#) ODI Background Notes, December 2011

[A guide to monitoring and evaluating policy influence](#) ODI Background Notes, February 2011

During the meeting John Young mentioned **episode studies**. Here are a couple of examples:

[The PRSP Initiative: Multilateral Policy Change and the Relative Role of Research](#)

[Animal Health Care in Kenya: The Road to Community-Based Animal Health Service Delivery](#)

An approach which combines the case study, episode study, outcome mapping and social network analysis. That is described in the following (see the appendix on page 53):

[Informal Traders Lock Horns with the Formal Milk Industry](#)

[ILRI Methodology Brief](#)

Other people / organisations doing interesting work on this include:

- Fred Carden, Director of [Evaluation at IDRC](#). Also see his book: [KNOWLEDGE TO POLICY Making the Most of Development Research](#)
- Impact Evaluation for Development (IE4D) Impact Evaluation for Development: Principles for Action
<http://www.scalingimpact.net/files/Impact%20Evaluation%20for%20Development%20-%20Principles%20for%20Action.pdf>
- [Dave Snowden](#), [Cognitive Edge](#), [Sensemaker](#), and especially [narrative research](#) (IDRC are testing this to evaluate their own research impact)
- [Rick Davies](#), and [MANDE News](#) and especially [Most Significant Change](#) and [Network Models](#)
- [Patricia Rogers](#), at RMIT and the [Better Evaluation](#)
- [The Health Economics Research Group at Brunel University](#) especially [Payback framework](#)
- [Research Evaluation Special Issue on The State of the Art in Measuring Research Impact](#)
- [The LSE Impact of Social Sciences Project](#) and their [handbook for researchers](#)
- [A Strategy and Results Framework for the CGIAR](#) – see pages 16-18 for a way to relate scientific research outputs for development to societal impacts.

Additional websites:

http://www.jic.ac.uk/corporate/about/publications/impact/economic_impact.pdf

http://www.ifr.ac.uk/info/Publications/Impact/IFR_economicimpact.pdf

<http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/Content.php?Section=IntoPractice&Page=Impact>