

Tackling extreme poverty: Evidence from the field

The Shaw Library and the Wolfson Theatre
London School of Economics and Political Science

0830–0900 Shaw Library **REGISTRATION - TEA AND COFFEE**

0900–0945 Shaw Library **WELCOME SESSION**

Words of welcome

Jonathan Leape, Executive Director, International Growth Centre

Opening remarks

Richard Montgomery, Head of Western Asia, DFID

Introduction

Mushtaque Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson, BRAC

0945–1015 Shaw Library **EVALUATING PROGRAMMES TARGETING THE ULTRA-POOR**

Results from randomised control trials on the effect of graduation programmes

Robin Burgess, Professor, LSE and Director, IGC

1015–1130 Shaw Library **THE EFFECT OF CASH VERSUS ASSETS**

Comparing assets versus cash transfers in social protection schemes

Academic presenter: Imran Rasul, Professor, UCL

Chair: Marvi Memon, Minister of State, Pakistan and Chairperson, Benazir Income Support

Panel discussion:

Qazi Isa, Chief Executive, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)

Albert Musisi, Commissioner for Macroeconomic Policy, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda

Munshi Sulaiman, Research Coordinator, BRAC International

1130–1145 Shaw Library **TEA AND COFFEE**

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1145-1300 Shaw Library

UNBUNDLING SKILLS AND ASSETS

Assessing the role of training and investing in human capital

Academic presenter: Abhijit Banerjee, Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Chair: Santhosh Mathew, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, India

Panel discussion:

Steven Werlin, Communications and Learning Officer, Fonkoze

Kathleen Colson, Founder, BOMA

Martin Greeley, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

1300-1345 Shaw Library

LUNCH

1345-1500 Shaw Library

GRADUATION IN A LONGER PERSPECTIVE

Presentation and discussion about new data on the long term effects of the ultra-poor programme in Bangladesh, 7 years after the intervention

Academic presenters:

Oriana Bandiera, Professor, London School of Economics

Esther Duflo, Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Chair: Joel Budd, Social Policy Editor of the Economist

Panel discussion:

Imran Matin, International Programme Director, Save the Children

Chantal Buard, Head of Digital, Amplifier Strategies

Kate Mckee, Senior Advisor, CGAP

Gabriel Fernandez, National Coordinator for Social Protection, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Liberia

1500-1530 Shaw Library to
Wolfson
Theatre

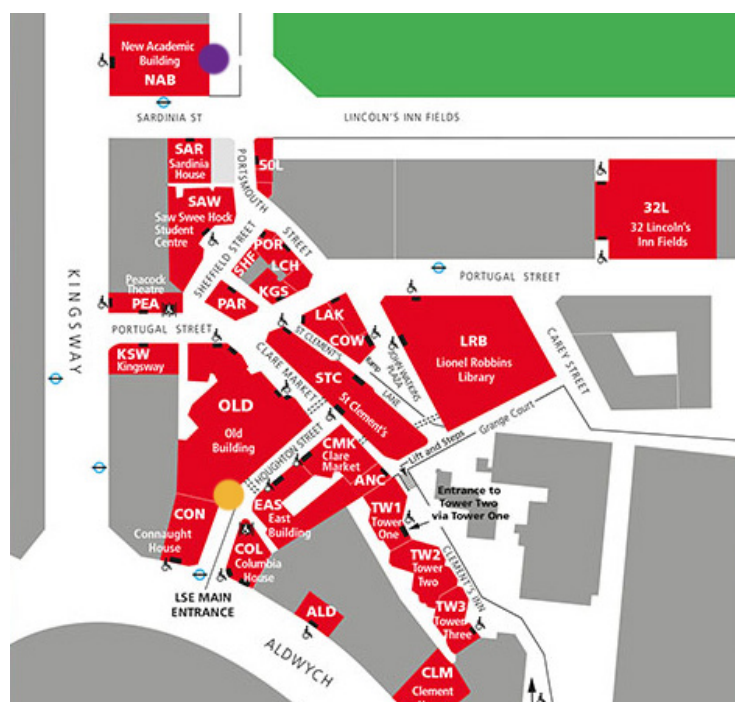
MOVE OF VENUE (TEA AND COFFEE AT WOLFSON THEATRE)

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1530-1700	Wolfson Theatre	<h3>THE CHALLENGE OF SCALE</h3> <p>Debating the need for locating programmes within the larger government agenda, the potentials for implementing the approach on a national level and the potential risks of scaling up</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Anne Hastings, Global Advocate and Quality Assurance Advisor, Amplifier Strategies</p> <p><i>Panel discussion:</i></p> <p>Ron Ajengo , Financial Controller, The National Treasury, Republic of Kenya</p> <p>Harshani Dharmadasa, Programme Associate Ultra-Poor Graduation, BRAC USA</p> <p>Pranab Jyoti Nath, Director, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) - Odisha</p> <p>Jaya Sakar, Vice President, Trickle Up</p> <p>Alix Zwane, CEO, Global Innovation Fund</p> <p>Matthew Greenslade, Senior Economic Advisor, DFID</p>
1700-1715	Wolfson Theatre	<h3>CLOSING REMARKS</h3> <p>Muhammad Musa, Executive Director, BRAC</p>
1715-1815	Wolfson Theatre	<h3>DRINKS RECEPTION</h3>

Map and locations



- Shaw Library
- Wolfson Theatre

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Speaker bios



Ron Ajengo

Financial Controller - PROFIT, The National Treasury, Republic of Kenya

Ronald is the Controller of the Rural Financial Outreach Component Manager for the Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies (PROFIT), a rural Finance Programme implemented under the National Treasury, Republic of Kenya, with funding from IFAD. PROFIT's objective is to improve financial access amongst the small holder farmers through value chain approach using innovative instruments such as risk sharing facility/guarantee amongst others. As Component Manager, Ronald coordinates the Rural Financial Outreach Component of the Programme by managing partnership agreements with implementing partners such as banks and MFIs.



Oriana Bandiera

Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science

Oriana Bandiera is a Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics, the Director of the Suntory and Toyota Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines (STICERD), and a fellow of the British Academy, CEPR, BREAD and IZA. She is co-director of the research programme in State Capabilities within the International Growth Centre (IGC), and of the research programme in Development Economics at CEPR. She is co-editor of the Journal of Labor Economics and *Economica*. Her research focuses on the ways in which incentives affect people's behaviour, and how far these effects depend on social context or social relationships. She was the 2011 recipient of the Carlo Alberto medal, which is awarded biennially to an Italian economist under the age of 40 for outstanding research contributions to the field of economics.



Abhijit Banerjee

Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee is an Indian economist. He is currently the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Banerjee is a co-founder of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (along with economists Esther Duflo and Sendhil Mullainathan), a research affiliate of Innovations for Poverty Action, and a member of the Consortium on Financial Systems and Poverty. Together with Esther Duflo, he is the co-author of *Poor Economics*.

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Chantal Buard

Head of Digital, Amplifier Strategies

Chantal Buard has more than 20 years of experience in digital media production including online design, print design, audio-visual production and motion graphics. That driving focus led her to become a Partner and Head of Digital at Amplifier. In addition to her own creative work as a designer, Chantal leads both the engineering and the digital product development teams. Under her management, Amplifier has grown exponentially in technological support for its partners resulting in web applications and enterprise scale tools like Impact Atlas and Ocean Space. Before coming to Amplifier, Chantal founded Mana Productions in 2005, an audio-visual and design production company based in San Francisco, which merged with Amplifier in 2012. She graduated from the Sorbonne and holds an MBA from IAE, Aix en Provence and York University, Toronto, specializing in Media and Arts Management.



Joel Budd

Social Policy Editor, The Economist

Joel Budd joined The Economist in 2003 to cover British home affairs. He was posted to Los Angeles in 2006 as West Coast Correspondent, where he covered California's developing budget crisis. In 2009 he was appointed Media Editor, writing about topics as diverse as music piracy, newspaper economics and the independent film business. He became Britain Editor in November 2011 before taking up his current role as Social Policy Editor writing about demography, urbanisation and development. Before joining The Economist Mr Budd taught early modern European history at New York University.



Robin Burgess

Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science

Robin Burgess is a Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, Director of the IGC, and Director of the Economic Organisation and Public Policy Programme at the London School of Economics. His areas of research interest include development economics, public economics, political economy, labour economics and environmental economics. He has published on a variety of topics - natural disasters, mass media, rural banks, land reform, labour regulation, industrial policy, taxation, poverty and growth.

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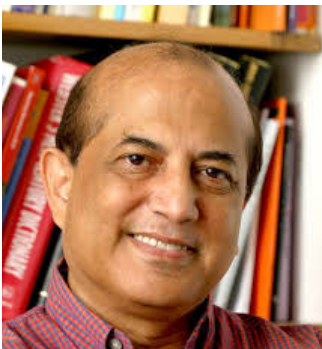
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Kathleen Colson

Founder, BOMA

In 2005, Kathleen and her Co-founder, Ahmed ‘Kura’ Omar, started The BOMA Project to develop an income-led approach that helps ultra-poor women to build a pathway out of extreme poverty through a two-year poverty graduation programme that provides women with a conditional cash transfer, financial training, two years of mentoring and a savings programme. Profits from each BOMA business provide a new and diversified income helping women support and feed their families, plan for future expenses such as school fees and medical care and respond to shocks (such as drought or emergencies). In five years, BOMA has been able to reach over 50,000 women and children. Upon exiting the two-year programme, participants report increased household spending on food (90% increase), education (132% increase) and medical care (195%). Kathleen is the recipient of the Sol Feinstein Humanitarian Award and the prestigious Rainer Arnhold Fellowship.



Mushtaque Chowdhury

Vice-Chairperson, BRAC

Dr Chowdhury is the Vice-Chairperson of BRAC. He is also the advisor to the founder and chairperson. Previously, he was the deputy executive director of BRAC, the founding director of the research and evaluation division and the founding dean of the James P. Grant School of Public Health at BRAC University. Dr Chowdhury holds a PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, an MSc from the London School of Economics and a BA from the University of Dhaka.



Harshani Dharmadasa

Programme Associate Ultra-Poor Graduation, BRAC USA

Harshani joined the BRAC USA team in January 2015 to support the TUP Advocacy campaign, contribute to proposal development and management of TUP grants, and provide technical assistance for existing and emerging clients implementing Graduation programs worldwide. She was recently involved in supporting the design of phase four of BRAC’s Targeting the ultra-poor programme, and development of the “Graduation Boot Camp”, a professional development opportunity to identify and train an effective cadre of BRAC staff to represent the Graduation approach and provide high-quality technical assistance. Prior to her current role, Harshani was a consultant for UN Women analyzing gender inequalities within national law and policies with respect to health, education, and employment in Africa and Asia. She holds a Masters of Law, with a specialty in International and Comparative Law, from George Washington University, as well as a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts, Honors, from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

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Esther Duflo

Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Esther Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a co-founder and director of the Poverty Action Lab, Research Associate at the National Bureau for Economic Research, and on the board of directors of the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD). She is also the co-director of the CEPR Development Economics programme and editor of the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics. She received her undergraduate degree in history and economics from the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris) in 1994, a master's in economics from DELTA (Paris) in 1995, and her Ph.D. in economics from MIT in 1999. She is the recipient of the Bronze Medal from the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (2005), Le Monde's Cercle des économistes Best Young French Economist Prize (2005), and the Elaine Bennett Prize for Research (2003). Duflo specializes in development economics and the design and evaluation of effective anti-poverty policy.



Gabriel Fernandez

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Liberia

Gabriel Fernandez is a Liberian national, currently working in the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection as the National Social Protection (NSP) Coordinator and head of the NSP Secretariat. He was responsible for the development of Liberia's National Social Protection strategy and policy, integration of social protection as a distinct sector in Liberia's 2012-17 Development Plan and more recently provided leadership on coordination of cash transfers as part of the Ebola response. He is also an active member of the World Bank Africa Community of Practice on unconditional and conditional cash transfers. Mr. Fernandez is a graduate of Cuttington University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1976 and later a postgraduate certificate in International Relations from the University of Nairobi in Kenya in 1980.



Martin Greeley

Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies

Dr Martin Greeley is a Development Economist with over 30 years professional experience including ten years long-term overseas work, (Andhra Pradesh, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh). His main areas of interest are: aid and public policy, agricultural development, impact assessment, poverty reduction, microfinance.

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Matthew Greenslade

Economic Adviser, DFID Social Protection Team

Matthew Greenslade is an economic adviser in the Social Protection Team, which leads on social protection policy in DFID. He leads on all economic aspects of social protection support. Matthew has worked on social protection in DFID since 2003 apart from two overseas postings, in Nepal (2006-2009) working on inclusive growth and Uganda (2009-2010) working on budget support. Before DFID, Matthew worked in the Department of Work and Pensions on UK government social protection provision.



Anne Hastings

Global Advocate and Quality Assurance Advisor, Amplifier Strategies

Anne Hastings spent 17 years in the leadership of Fonkoze - Haiti's largest microfinance institution. While in Haiti, Anne gave birth to one of the first replications of BRAC's program for the ultra-poor - known as Chemin Lavi Miyo (the Pathway to a Better Life), a programme currently in scale up mode. For the last two years, Anne has been the Executive Director of the Microfinance CEO Working Group, a collaborative effort of the CEOs of ten global microfinance networks. Recently, she has assumed the role of Global Advocate and Quality Assurance Advisor for Uplift, a joint initiative between Amplifier Strategies, LLC and a group of philanthropic donors to accelerate the the global adoption of the graduation approach. In 2007, Anne was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Business Leadership by Duquesne University. The following year she was honoured at the United Nations because of her commitment to the elimination of extreme poverty. In 2010, the Schwab Foundation named Anne a Social Entrepreneur of the Year. Anne holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.



Qazi Issa

Chief Executive, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund

Mr. Qazi Azmat Isa is an economist and currently serves as Chief Executive of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). He is also a board member at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Aurat Foundation and LEAD-Pakistan. Previous professional experience includes the World Bank in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the UNDP/World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme and the Balochistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP).

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Jonathan Leape

Executive Director, International Growth Centre

Jonathan Leape is the Executive Director of the IGC. Jonathan Leape is also an Associate Professor of Economics at the LSE and was previously director of the highly innovative “LSE 100 The LSE Course: Understanding the Causes of Things” since 2009. He was the founding director of the Centre for Research into Economics and Finance in Southern Africa, which was established at the LSE in 1990 as an initiative of the Commonwealth Heads of Government to support the democratic transition in South Africa. His research interests centre on public economics, with a particular focus on taxation and regulation, including congestion charging. He has a PhD in Economics from Harvard University and degrees from Oxford University and Harvard University.



Imran Matin

International Programme Director, Save the Children

Imran joined Save the Children in June 2012 as International Programme Director. Prior to joining Save the Children, Imran worked with BRAC for 11 years as Deputy Executive Director for BRAC International and was Director of BRAC’s Research and Evaluation Division. His depth of experience also includes the World Bank, where he served on the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and the Civil Society Task Force on Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation. Imran has a PhD in Economics from the University of Sussex and has published widely.



Santhosh Matthew

Joint Secretary (IT and Skills), Ministry of Rural Development, India

Dr A. Santhosh Mathew is presently Joint Secretary (IT and Skills), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Prior to this, he was Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar. An Indian Administrative Service officer of 1985 batch, he holds a Ph. D. in Governance from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. He is a political economist with interests in aid, state capacity and sustainable livelihoods.

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Kate McKee

Senior Advisor, CGAP

Kate McKee joined CGAP in 2006, leading CGAP's research, writing, and policy advisory work on consumer protection, including analysis of policy/regulatory/supervision options for market conduct regulation in low-access markets. She also leads CGAP work on responsible finance. This includes work with the Smart Campaign to develop consensus industry standards for improved client protection, as well as an initiative to ensure that responsible finance considerations are integrated in investor processes. Other CGAP work has focused on savings and the role of government in financial inclusion. From 1998 to 2006 McKee directed the Microenterprise Development office at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), leading support to USAID overseas programs that invest over \$200 million annually in 70+ countries. She is a development economist, with a master's degree from Princeton University.



Marvi Memon

Minister of State, Pakistan and Chairperson, Benazir Income Support

Marvi Memon is currently the Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program with her designation equivalent to a Minister of State. She graduated from the London School of Economics with a B.Sc (Econ) Honors in International Relations in 1994. She is one of the first parliamentarians to have pursued public interest litigation in the superior judiciary and being petitioner for many record making verdicts related to flood management, air crashes and worker rights. Her previous assignment within the parliament was as Chairperson of the National Assembly's Committee for Information Broadcasting and Heritage, and Member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Foreign Affairs. Her strength is her close contact with grassroots, youth and discriminated populations of society in all provinces and territories of Pakistan.



Richard Montgomery

Director for Western Asia, DFID

Richard has been working with government, business and civil society partners to promote stability, prosperity and reduce poverty in Pakistan. He is leading the DFID country team at the British High Commission and managing one of DFID's largest country aid portfolios to deliver results in education, health, social protection, governance, and economic development.

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Muhammad Musa

Executive Director, BRAC

Dr Musa is the Executive Director of BRAC. He has an extensive background in leading humanitarian, social development, and public health organisations in international, cross-cultural settings. A medical doctor and a public health specialist, he has specialised training in maternal and child health & nutrition, as well as in disaster management. Before joining BRAC, he worked for 32 years with CARE International as one of its senior international management professionals. He spent 20 of those years working in Ethiopia, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Asia region. Dr Musa had his Masters in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. His Maternal & Child Health degree is from the Netherlands, and his MD is from Chittagong medical College.



Albert Musisi

Commissioner for Macroeconomic Policy, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Uganda

Aldret Albert Musisi holds a PhD in Development Economics from the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He has considerable experience in Economic Development Policy, Macroeconomic Policy, and Poverty Analysis. He was the Commissioner for Economic Development Policy and Research in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Uganda but is currently the Commissioner for the Macroeconomic Policy in the same Ministry. Prior to the above, he worked with the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM), anchor unit of the World Bank in Washington D.C. USA.



Pranab Jyoti Nath

Director of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Odisha

Shri Pranab Jyoti Nath is currently serving as Director, National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)-Odisha. He belongs to 2005 batch Indian Administrative Services (IAS). He has served in various administrative capacities across the country. He has a very illustrious career of implementing development programs, i.e.-Land record modernization, rural drinking water supply and serving as a District Magistrate. He is a “Future Government” awardee for his contribution in digitising archives for Govt. Of Kerala. He is a student of Economics and Sociology. He is an alumnus of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is a poet and singer.

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Imran Rasul

Professor of Economics, University College London

Imran Rasul is a Professor in the Department of Economics at University College London. His areas of interest focus on labour economics and household economics. Previous and ongoing projects include studying whether and how a household's behaviour is influenced by the presence and characteristics of its extended family and the evaluation of a female adolescent empowerment program in rural Uganda and Tanzania.



Jaya Sakar

Vice President for Programs, Trickle Up

Jaya Sarkar is an international development professional with almost thirty years of experience in India and Latin America. Her expertise is in child centered community development and economic strengthening for excluded and vulnerable populations. Jaya has worked across the sectors of education, health, local governance, and economic strengthening. Within these sectors, her primary focus has been the participation and inclusion of historically marginalized groups, such as indigenous populations, and ensuring strategic partnerships at all levels to address the barriers they face in program design and implementation. Currently she is Vice President for Programs at Trickle Up, a New York headquartered organization that enables populations living in ultrapovertry to create a pathway to a sustainable income and access critical social programs. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the Center for Global Affairs at New York University. Jaya holds a Master's degree in International Development Administration from World Learning and a BA in English and Government from Oberlin College.



Munshi Sulaiman

Research Coordinator, BRAC International

Munshi Sulaiman is a Research Coordinator at BRAC International. He did his PhD at the London School of Economics and holds a Masters from BRAC University. He has extensive experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of policy interventions using both experimental and non-experimental methods. He has been engaged in rigorous academic research on evaluating youth and health care interventions, financial and livelihood services, food transfer and entrepreneurship programmes in several countries in South Asia and Africa.

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Steven Werlin

Community and Learning Officer, Fonkoze

Offering both financial and development services, Fonkoze's 'Staircase Out of Poverty' provides a comprehensive approach to poverty alleviation in Haiti. Each of its four Steps is uniquely designed to provide a woman with the resources and support that she needs to ascend from poverty, wherever she is in her climb. Along with the four main Steps, Fonkoze's Staircase includes "Handrails"—programs that provide members and clients with business skills training, education, and health services to support them as they progress. Our accompaniment is designed to help women succeed as they do the hard work required to climb the Staircase, creating a better future for themselves and their families.



Alix Zwane

CEO, Global Innovation Fund

Alix Zwane is a social entrepreneur and public health expert. She is the first CEO of the Global Innovation Fund, which supports the scale up of evidence based innovations in development. She joined the fund from Evidence Action where she served as Executive Director and a member of the Board of Directors. Evidence Action builds business models to bridge the gap between what research has shown to be effective and what is implemented in practice. Alix grew the organization to one employing over 200 people and helping over 100 million children annually. Prior to Evidence Action Alix was Senior Program Officer in the Global Development group at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, taking a lead role on strategy development for the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene team and setting the team's evaluation policy and associated investment plan. Her stint in philanthropy was preceded by experience in both the private sector and academia. Alix holds a PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University and has published widely in environmental and development economics journals.