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Evidence in the fight against poverty

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In-School Deworming

- f* Many reasons for children not to be in schools but addressing their health can be a cheap, effective and easy way to improve attendance.
 - f* 400 million children infected with intestinal worms, causing them to be anemic and tired.
 - f* Sick children skip school more often.
 - f* School-based mass deworming costs 50 cents per child per year and increases attendance by 1/6 of a school year (about 30 days annually).
 - f* Kenya launched national deworming program to treat 3.6 million children.
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.. Halve proportion whose income is less than \$1 a day.

6 Halve proportion who suffer from hunger.

6 Ensure boys and girls complete a full course of primary education.

Goal 3: Gender equality

.. Eliminate gender disparity.

Goal 4: Child mortality

.. Reduce under-five mortality.

6 Goal 6: HIV, malaria, other diseases

.. Halt spread of HIV/AIDS.

.. Halt spread of malaria.

6 Goal 7: Sustainability

.. Halve proportion without safe drinking water.



Basic Learning

- Primary school enrollment is rising but learning remains a challenge.
- Poor children often lack school preparedness and quickly fall behind. Unable to read and write in 3rd grade they gain little from school attendance.
- Simple remedial education focusing on basic skills

Free bednets

- Large social benefits from use of insecticide treated bednets. WHO advocates free bednets.
- Proponents of user fees suggest charging helps ensure bednets get to those who need them and will use them.
- Evidence shows it simply excludes the poor and does not promote usage.

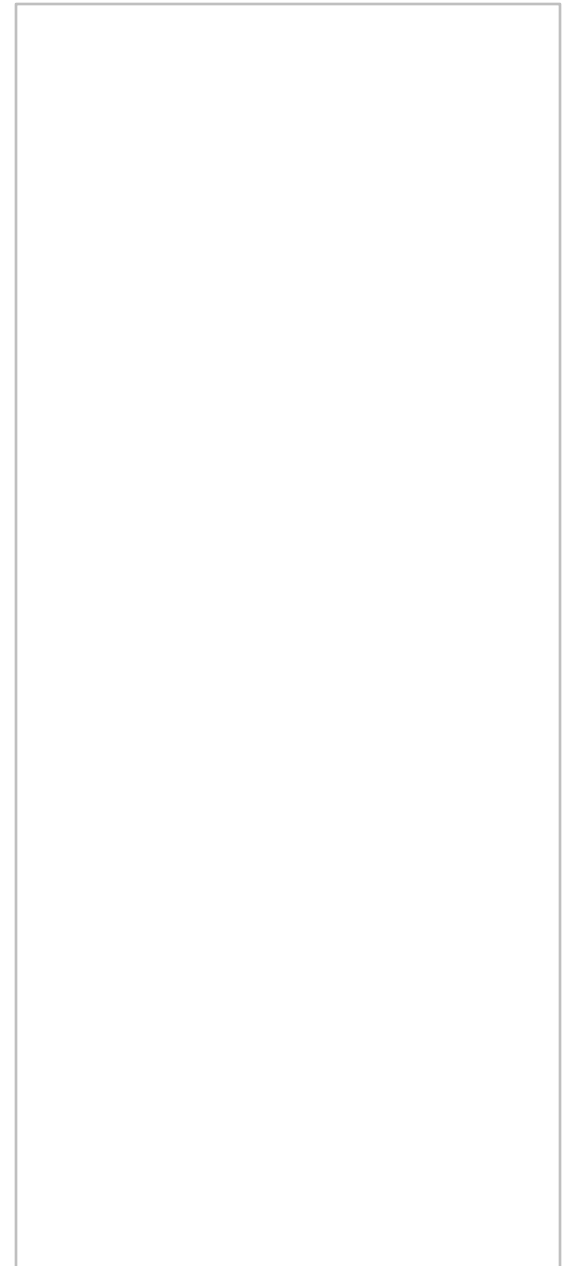
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Sugar Daddies

- 4 million people are newly infected with HIV yearly (UNAIDS).
- Youth are “window of hope” in fight against HIV/AIDS but many programs targeted at youth have had disappointing results.
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Incentives to immunize

- Vaccines are highly cost effective and provided for free in many countries.
- Yet there are still areas with very low coverage.
- Small incentives (e.g. a bag of lentils for each shot) can dramatically increase uptake.
- By encouraging many more families to attend immunization clinics or camps, incentives can reduce the cost per child immunized.



Smart incentives

- Simple agriculture technology have potential to dramatically increase income.
- Surprisingly low use even when farmers know the benefits.
- Smart subsidies can trigger big changes at low cost.
- Limited time offer at harvest time can be more effective than big subsidies at planting time.

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From evidence to action

- “Best buys” are effective, simple, and scalable programs. Potential for large effects if integrated into national policy and development programs.

■ Evidence on programs that did not work, or where the findings were mixed, is important for learning too.

■ To meet the MDGs we need to focus resources on strategies that are backed by rigorous evidence and cost effective.

Learn more:

www.povertyactionlab.org/MDG