



# Welcome...

## ...to the Itad Summer 2016 Newsletter

We've been busy here at Itad over the last six months. We continue to develop after our [ownership transition](#) late last year, and have started working on some [exciting new projects](#).

Throughout this newsletter you'll also find:

- Blogs, products, and links to our ongoing work on developing and implementing innovative evaluation methodologies
- An update from the [Centre for Development Impact](#)
- Insight into our [HeforShe commitment](#), and what it means for our internal operations
- A welcome to our [new recruits](#)

We've also started thinking about Itad [post-Brexit](#), as the implications of June's referendum start to appear. As 2016 progresses, we're committed to continuing our work in ensuring that development programmes and initiatives have the greatest possible impact on people's lives.



## Realist Evaluation

We've been doing a lot of thinking about Realist Evaluation lately, and how we can learn and improve our practices and programmes.

We spent a week with expert [Realist Evaluator Gill Westhorp](#)

Dave Wilson reflected on [our Realist Evaluation work for BRACED](#)



## Reality Check Approach

Some of our long-term projects are employing a [Reality Check Approach](#) (RCA) to try to understand the impact of the programmes we are evaluating.

[Nepal Rural Access Programme](#) – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning



## BCURE Evaluation Platform

An evaluation team from Itad has been examining how and why different approaches to capacity building for evidence-informed policy making (EIPM) work, for whom, and in which contexts.

The team's findings are part of a three-year realist impact evaluation of the **Building Capacity to Use Research Evidence (BCURE)** programme that aims to strengthen the global evidence base on whether capacity building approaches to support EIPM can be a cost effective way to reduce poverty, and if so how they can be implemented to achieve the greatest impact.

All the team's work, including their latest Literature Review, will be featured on the new [BCURE evaluation platform](#) on Itad.com.

[Read More](#)



## CDI Update

The Centre for Development Impact has been very active over the last six months, publishing several CDI Practice Papers, holding (and attending) seminars and events across the field of impact evaluation, and work on research and practice.

[Read More](#)

Millennium Villages Impact Evaluation, [Baseline Summary Report](#)



## Climate Resilience

['Better understanding and measuring resilience'](#) Dave Wilson, Robbie Gregorowski & Sarah Standley

['How MEL systems provide answers for development in a warming world'](#) Dave Wilson, Robbie Gregorowski & Sarah Standley

BRACED Monitoring & Evaluation [Guidance Notes](#)



## Adaptive Programming

['Monitoring and Evaluating Flexible and Adaptive Programming'](#) Julian Barr

['Flexible and Adaptive...How Original'](#) Jake Allen

['Moving targets and going in circles'](#) Julian Barr

['The 'almost revolution' of thinking and working politically'](#) Claire Hughes



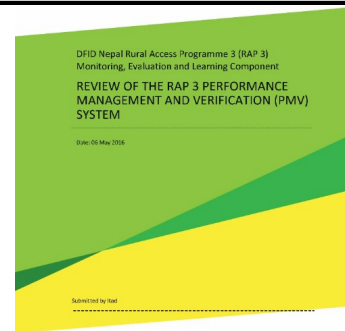
## Itad's Gender Snapshot Review

In September 2015, [Itad joined the global HeforShe initiative](#), and in doing so, made a commitment to champion gender equality not just across our monitoring and evaluation work, but also in our internal processes.

Find out more about our '[Gender Snapshot Review](#)'.

In line with our commitment, we published a series of blogs exploring our work around Gender Equality, HeforShe, and empowerment and accountability:

- Can Football tackle Violence against Women and Girls? [Six findings from our baseline study in Kenya.](#)
- A Ridiculously Short Introduction to Monitoring & Evaluation for [Women's Economic Empowerment in Market Systems Development](#)
- Aligning methods to [inspire and monitor change](#)
- Strengthening the Enabling Environment for Young Women's Empowerment in Nigeria: [unpacking Voices for Change vision of change](#)
- Gender Equality: [what's in it for men?](#)



Results in development

## Independent Review of the Rural Access Programme's Performance Management and Verification System

- Read the [Report](#)



### Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) Evaluation

Testing MeTA's underlying intervention logic

Gavin Stedman-Bryce  
Florian Schatz  
Catherine Hodgkin  
Paul Balogun

December 2015



ePact, is a consortium led by Oxford Policy Management and co-managed with Itad

## Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) Evaluation, Final Report

- Read the [Report](#)
- Read the [Blog](#)
- Read the [Policy Brief](#)



## UKES Conference 2016

Itdad had lots of representatives at this year's [UK Evaluation Society \(UKES\) Conference](#), speaking on a range of subjects from measuring resilience in complex contexts to championing change through evaluation.

Have a look at the [six lessons we learned from this year's conference](#).

One of our presenters, Florian Schatz, reflects on 'Evaluating complex change across projects and contexts: [Methodological lessons from a macro evaluation of DFID's social accountability portfolio](#)'



## New Recruits

Since January, we have welcomed 9 new members of staff to the team.

[Iryna Olyanovska](#) (Assistant Accountant), [Suzanne Trivière](#) (Company Management Administrator), [Efi Alamanos](#) (Project Administrator) and [Madeleine Rohan](#) (HR Manager) have joined Business Support Services.

[Rachel Norman](#) (WASH), [Leonora Evans Gutierrez](#) (FCAS), [Stefanie Wallach](#) (Organisational Effectiveness), [Emma](#)

Katharina Uelle, Jennifer Williams and Joseph Pearce\*

**Abstract** Information and communications technologies (ICTs) are widely seen as a key enabler for citizens to hold service providers and governments to account. But if citizens live in rural Africa, Asia or Latin America, are they able to call on digital service delivery? What are the barriers? How can service providers or government officials better support ICT reporting initiatives to improve rural water sustainability? The findings demonstrate that needs within a service provider's contracted responsibilities and design or in-house fault reporting and maintenance systems often prevent responsiveness and accountability to service consumers. Reporting modes where users are encouraged to report faults. This raises the question of whether ICTs transcend, or whether service improvement simply hinges on making service provision designs more accountable.

**1 Introduction**

A key challenge in the rural water supply sector is to ensure existing water services are sustainable. For citizens, a critical goal is to ensure that services are reliable. There have been many attempts to improve sustainability through increased accountability. In the face of scarce information and constrained citizen capabilities (IC), the lower income water providers are a key of encouraging citizens to report on broken-down water points, thereby increasing repair rates. While some of these initiatives are well documented, there has not yet been a research analysis of the potential role of ICTs in enhancing service sustainability, or of the specific issues that inhibit or facilitate such changes. This article, based on research funded under Making Markets Count (MVC) and carried out by WaterAid, the International Water and Sanitation Centre (IWSC) and Itdad, intends to contribute to closing this knowledge gap. We argue that ICTs can successfully increase accountability, but are subject to a number of barriers: accountability and sustainability are important objectives, not only for ICTs, but also for service providers and governments.

We review the literature on the potential role of ICTs in improving the accountability of service delivery in international

## IDS Bulletin - ICTs Help Citizens Voice Concerns over Water – Or Do They?

- Read the [Article](#)
- Read the [Blog](#)

## Other blogs

How to evaluate if a programme really makes markets work for the poor – [10 Key points](#)

AIDS, TB and Malaria: [What difference is the Global Fund making?](#)

BEAM citizens, [bring out your evidence!](#)

Don't forget to check out our [60 Second Interviews](#)



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