

Phone call between Good Ventures, GiveWell and the Department for International Development (DFID), 9 July 2012.

Participants:

Good Ventures: Cari Tuna, President

GiveWell: Elie Hassenfeld, Co-Executive Director; Eliza Scheffler, Research Analyst

DFID: Nick York (Chief Professional Officer for Evaluation), Sarah Bloom (Team Leader, Health and Education, Private Sector Department), Nicki Goh (Private Sector Adviser, Innovation), Jonathan Wong (Head of Innovation Hub), John Gibb (Team Leader, Health Services Team), Julia Watson (Sr Health Economist), and Gillian Mann (Health Adviser).

GiveWell and Good Ventures were particularly interested in DFID because there is overlap between some programs that DFID funds and areas that GiveWell and Good Ventures find promising (e.g. SCI, Gates Foundation/DFID malaria resistance project in Myanmar).

The UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK's fight against global poverty. In 2010/11, the DFID aid programme was £7.7 billion. DFID's main offices are in London and East Kilbride (Scotland), and it has country offices in Africa and Asia that have professional staff on the ground. Funding decisions take into account both geographical and policy priorities.

Discussion of DFID areas of interest

- DFID directs its support to 28 focus countries. It has a focus on generating results and getting value for money for all development programs. DFID supports a wide range of health programmes (see www.dfid.gov.uk).
- DFID mentioned the following areas for greater potential future investment:
 - Neglected tropical diseases
 - Global partnerships, particularly in TB and malaria
 - Family planning
 - Water, sanitation and hygiene
 - Non-communicable diseases
 - Information and communication technologies and health
 - Non-state health services (through the HANSHEP group-www.hanshep.org)
 - Filling gaps in knowledge and evidence (e.g. through funding evaluations, Cochrane Collaboration)