

THE FACTS INITIATIVE AGAINST POVERTY
HOW TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FIELD ACTIONS

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THE FACTS INITIATIVE AGAINST POVERTY

- **Field practitioners often claim that up to 70 % of the funding devoted to development does not reach the intended target.**

➤ Could we improve the effectiveness and achieve 3 times more with the same resources?

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THE OVERALL SITUATION

- An urgent need to capitalize knowledge, know-how, and good practices.
- A significant demand for the assessment of **results** of field actions (as opposed to **projects**).
- A profound need to identify **innovative** and reproducible results.
- A major lack of **acknowledgment** of field operators and a need to enhance their visibility.

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FIELD ACTIONS ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY EVIDENCE-BASED (*cf. Evidence-Based Medicine*)

- **Generate the evidence:**
Controlled field experiments.



Esther Duflo

Chair “Knowledge against Poverty”
at the College de France
Head of the MIT’s Jameel Poverty Action Lab



- **Make knowledge and experiences accessible:**

Field Action Science Reports

- **FACTS** stands for “Field Action Science”

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WHY ARE THE RESULTS OF FIELD ACTIONS POORLY ACCESSIBLE?

- They are not systematically reported and published in a peer-reviewed, communicable and objectified form.

→ WHY IS IT SO?

- The communities of field operators are not appropriately organized and structured.

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A PARALLEL WITH SCIENCE

SCIENCE

- Researchers in the labs.
- International communication and evaluation networks run by the researchers (scientific communities).
- Research institutions.
- Science funding organizations, policy makers...



FIELD ACTION

- Practitioners in the field.
- **Missing level**
- National and international agencies for development, NGOs.
- Development funding organizations, policy makers...

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DUAL OBJECTIVE

- 1. To stimulate a publication process: creation of *FACTS Reports***
 - International
 - Open access
 - Peer-reviewed (peers being recognized field operators).
- 2. To promote the creation of communities of field operators at the level of individuals across organizations**



Both require a cultural change

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PUBLICATION OF RESULTS IS A PREREQUISITE

- How would research institutions (CNRS, NIH, etc.) as well as communities of scientists (in physics, biology, etc.) be able to function without publications?
- *FACTS Reports*: the proof of concept has been made and the hurdles have been identified.
- The journal is being developed around thematic issues (microcredit, women and children's health, etc.) and geographically (Brazil, Philippines, etc.).

FIP: THE FACTS INITIATIVE AGAINST POVERTY

GENERATING NATIONAL FIP COMMUNITIES AND AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK LINKING THEM

- National “franchises” are being nucleated around a common core of terms of references and a charter of values.
- The National FIP communities will operate independently according to the national specificities and needs, using the language of their choice (local, English, etc.).
- They will link up in an international network associated with the international journal, *FACTS Reports*.

FIP: THE FACTS INITIATIVE AGAINST POVERTY

CONCLUSIONS

- *FACTS Reports* is now operating.
- The creation of national FIP communities and an international network has begun.

➤ FIP is an ambitious, but essential project.

➤ It is expected that Development funding organizations will endorse the principles of the Initiative, and in particular, will encourage publication of results by field operators.

Join us in this effort !

www.factsreports.org

