

**Editorial** 2

**Research**  
Economic growth does little to  
reduce child undernutrition 3

What drives evaluation ratings? 5

**Reflection**  
Will the SDG trigger action? 6

**Policy support**  
The impact of livelihood promotion  
in Uganda 8

**Teaching**  
MAS 2014-2016 10

**People** 12



# Liebe Alumni

## liebe Freunde des NADEL

Es ist zwar keine Neuigkeit mehr, dass Rolf Kappel nach mehr als 20 Jahren an der ETH emeritiert wurde und ich die Leitung des NADEL von ihm übernehmen durfte, aber offiziell möchten wir uns in dieser Ausgabe der nadelNEWS von ihm verabschieden. Wir nutzen hierzu gerne die Worte von Prof. David Gugerli, einem langjährigen Weggefährten von Rolf Kappel (Seite 12): besser hätten wir eine Laudatio zum Abschied aus dem Amt nicht verfassen können. Rolf Kappel bleibt dem NADEL jedoch treu und ist weiterhin in unseren Seminarräumen präsent.

Für die Leitung der MAS/CAS Studiengänge unterstützt mich seit HS2014 Rudolf Batliner, der entwicklungspolitische und didaktische Fachkompetenz in Personalunion vereint. Weitere neue Teammitglieder sind seit HS2014 Fritz Brugger und Linn Nilsen, die mich in politik- und naturwissenschaftlichen Fragen der Entwicklung unterstützen (Seite 13).


Ein neues Team, doch gleich geblieben ist unser Ziel mit Lehre, Forschung und Beratung zu einer innovativen, effektiven und nachhaltigen Entwicklungshilfe der Schweiz beizutragen. Ich freue mich sehr, das NADEL weiterzuentwickeln und zeitgleich mit der post-2015 Entwicklungsagenda, die „post-2015 NADEL Agenda“ zu gestalten. Eine Reflexion über die geplante post-2015 Entwicklungsagenda finden Sie auf Seite 6. Für diese neue Kategorie der nadelNEWS werden wir in Zukunft verschiedene Wissenschaftler einladen, um ihre persönliche Meinung zu einem aktuellen Thema der Entwicklungspolitik einer breiteren Öffentlichkeit zugänglich zu machen.

Wie Sie sehen, sind einige der nadelNEWS Beiträge auf Englisch verfasst: wir möchten nicht nur die interdisziplinäre und politikorientierte Kultur des NADEL weiterpflegen, sondern auch die internationale Kultur weiterentwickeln. Auf den Seiten 3-5 geben wir Ihnen einen Einblick in ausgewählte politikrelevante Forschungsstudien des NADEL. Einen Überblick über die von uns in 2014 publizierten Artikel und Studien finden Sie auf Seite 14.

Was haben wir für 2015 geplant? Unter anderem werden wir 2015 zwei grössere Veranstaltungen organisieren. Ruedi Baumgartner, ehemaliger Direktor des NADEL, hat ein Exempel an nachhaltiger Forschung statuiert und die Haushalte, welche er für seine Dissertation interviewt hat, 30 Jahre später wieder aufgesucht. Die Buchvernissage „Farewell to Yak and Yeti? The Rolwaling Sherpas in a Globalized World“ wird am 23. September stattfinden. Zeitgleich wird sich der neu gegründete NADEL Alumni Verein offiziell vorstellen. Die Initiatoren sind Absolventen des MAS Jahrgang 2012-2014 (siehe auch Seite 10-11).

Die zweite Veranstaltung werden wir am 9. Juni 2015 zusammen mit der DEZA in Bern organisieren. Mir liegt ein besseres Verständnis von effektiver Entwicklungshilfe am Herzen. Im Juni wollen wir deshalb mit internationalen Rednern von NROs der Frage nachgehen, wie NROs mehr von Wirkungsstudien profitieren können. Basierend auf diesem Workshop wird eine finanzielle Unterstützung von der DEZA ausgeschrieben, die drei Schweizer NROs eine Wirkungsstudie ermöglicht. Ich freue mich schon heute auf die eingehenden Vorschläge.

Ich freue mich auf weitere spannende Diskussionen und herausfordernde Projekte mit Ihnen. Nun wünsche ich Ihnen viel Spass bei der Lektüre der nadelNEWS.

Herzlich  
  
 Isabel Günther

## Impressum

NADEL  
 Clausiusstr. 37 CLD  
 8092 Zürich, Schweiz  
 Tel. +41 44 632 42 40  
 Fax +41 44 632 12 07  
 Internet: [www.nadel.ethz.ch](http://www.nadel.ethz.ch)  
 E-Mail: [info@nadel.ethz.ch](mailto:info@nadel.ethz.ch)

Photos: Fritz Brugger (page 1,3,6); Rolf Batliner (page 8,9); Rolf Kappel (page 14); NADEL (page 10); ETH (page 12).

To subscribe or unsubscribe please send an email to: [alumni@nadel.ethz.ch](mailto:alumni@nadel.ethz.ch)



nadelRESEARCH

# Economic growth does little to reduce child undernutrition

*Kenneth Harttgen, Post-Doc, NADEL*

**This study analyses whether macroeconomic growth is associated with reductions in early childhood undernutrition in low-income and middle-income countries based on 121 Demographic and Health Surveys from 36 low-income countries. The findings show a quantitatively very small association between increases in GDP and reductions in early childhood undernutrition, emphasizing the need for direct health investments to improve the nutritional status of children in low-income and middle-income countries.**

## Background

Increasing economic growth, as measured through increases in per-capita gross domestic product (GDP), is the cornerstone of development policy for most national governments. Therefore, in countries with low per-capita GDP, increasing the rate of economic growth is also often justified as a key policy instrument for improving population health and nutrition. The rationale is that increases in economic growth will lead to increases

in average income, especially improving the incomes of poor people, which in turn will improve access to, and consumption of, goods and services that improve nutritional status and health. Although such a growth-mediated strategy for improving population health and nutrition is plausible, the empirical evidence remains unclear. In this study, we aim to assess whether macroeconomic growth is associated with reductions in early childhood undernutrition in low-income and middle-income countries. This study is a joined work with colleagues from the Harvard School of Public Health, the University of Göttingen, and the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

## Data and empirical approach

We use the nationally representative and comparable Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) from 36 countries between 1990 and 2011, with objective measurements of childhood anthropometry for approximately 500,000 children. To investigate whether changes in national economic growth (measured by per-capita gross domestic product (GDP)) are associated with reductions in the prevalence of early childhood undernutri-

on, we analyze the data for three anthropometric outcomes for children aged between 0 and 3 year years: stunting (low height-for-age – an indicator of chronic undernutrition), underweight (low weight-for-age – an indicator of acute undernutrition), and wasting (low weight-for-height – an indicator of acute undernutrition).

## Findings

Our findings reveal interesting new insights regarding the association between child undernutrition and economic growth. Overall, we find that richer countries show lower levels of child undernutrition, which is shown in the left part of the figure. With increasing levels of per-capita GDP, the percentage of children being stunted decreases. However, only a very small relationship is found between growth of per-capita GDP and changes in the prevalence of child undernutrition. To illustrate this, the right part of the figure shows the association between changes in economic growth and undernutrition. Based on regression analysis, we find that a 5% increase in per-capita GDP is associated with a 0.3% reduced probability of stunting, a 0.2% reduced probability of underweight, and a 0.1% reduced probability of wasting. Even more worrying, no association is found between per-capita GDP and undernutrition in young children from the poorest 20% households.

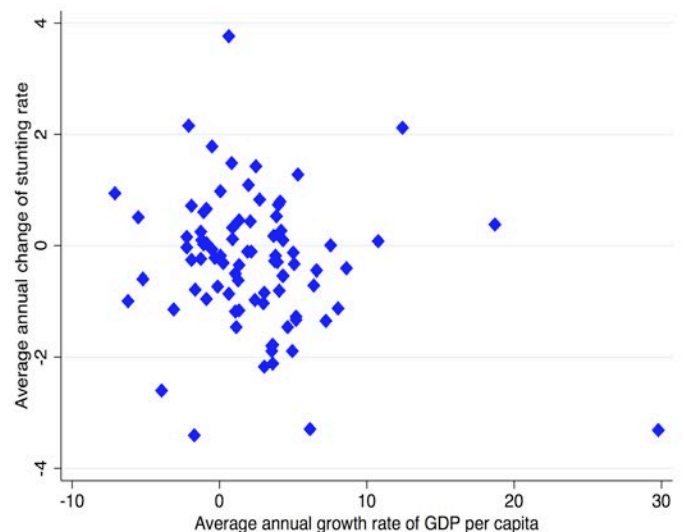
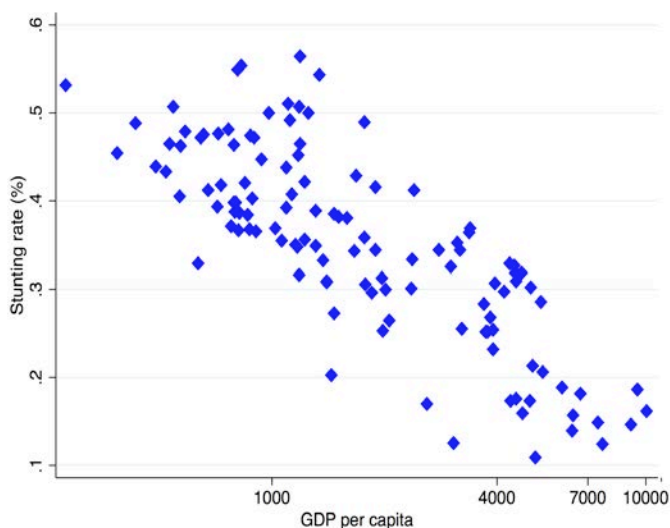
## Interpretation and recommendations

Our finding of a quantitatively very small association challenges the assumption that economic growth will lead to reductions in child undernutrition. Several plausible explanations could account for this result. First, the growth in incomes could be unequally distributed, which means that if poor people are excluded from the benefits of growth, the effect of increased prosperity could be low. Second, even if rising incomes reach most households, they might not necessarily be spent in ways

that enhance the nutritional status of children. A positive association would depend on how resources are allocated between food and non-food items, the quality of food purchased, and the distribution of food within households. Third, rising average incomes could be poorly associated with improvements in access to public services that are essential to improve the nutritional status of the population (e.g., vaccinations against diseases that can precipitate and maintain undernutrition, prenatal and postnatal care, clean water and sanitation, etc.). High-income growth does not guarantee the provision of these services, which are typically provided and financed by the state, and the willingness and ability of states to deliver these services can differ greatly. Least, many other factors besides average prosperity affect childhood undernutrition, some of which (e.g., female education) depend largely on public action that might be unrelated to per-capita GDP.

In summary, the quantitatively very small association seen in our study suggests that the contribution of economic growth to the reduction in early childhood undernutrition in developing countries is very small, if it exists at all. This finding challenges the assumption that economic growth will lead to reductions in child undernutrition. Our results therefore emphasize the need to focus on direct investments in health and nutrition and not to rely on the so-called trickle-down approach of a growth-mediated strategy to improve nutrition in children.

Source: Sebastian Vollmer, Kenneth Harttgen, Malavika A Subramanyam, Jocelyn Finlay, Stephan Klasen, S V Subramanian (2014). Is Economic Growth Associated with Reduction in Child Undernutrition? Evidence from 115 Demographic and Health Surveys from 37 Low- and Middle-income Countries. *The Lancet Global Health*, 2 (4): e225-e234.



Correlation between prevalence of early childhood undernutrition outcomes and log of per-capita GDP (left) and growth of per-capita GDP (right).

# What drives evaluation ratings?

Laura Metzger, PhD student, and Isabel Günther, Prof. Development Economics, NADEL

**Many studies on aid effectiveness rely on evaluation ratings to measure projects' performance. Using the example of drinking water projects, we compare evaluation ratings to objective and quantitative indicators of water supply to better understand what influences evaluation ratings. It seems that evaluation ratings are only weakly correlated with improvements in water supply and put more weight on a project's management and implementation.**

## Background and Research Question

How do donors evaluate their projects? Our interest in this question was sparked by a series of studies using World Bank project evaluation ratings to identify drivers of aid effectiveness. One objective of evaluation ratings is to capture if aid projects achieve the planned development targets, or in other words to measure aid effectiveness. In addition, evaluation ratings also capture the relevance, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of aid projects (see the OECD DAC criteria). However, evaluation ratings are not standardized and hence not comparable across donors. Moreover, evaluation ratings are subjective: although evaluators follow common evaluation guidelines, they are given flexibility in their ratings. Thus, a project's rating depends on who evaluated it. In our study, we aim to better understand how evaluation ratings reflect the effectiveness of aid projects. In particular, we test if our conclusions about the success factors of aid projects would change, when using quantitative project indicators instead of evaluation ratings.

## Data and Empirical Approach

Our analysis is based on 150 drinking water projects financed by a large bi-lateral donor. All of these projects aimed to reduce water-borne diseases in low income countries by providing safe drinking water. We chose water aid, because it offers quantitative project indicators that the donor collects for all its water projects, and that are based on internationally agreed water indicators (United Nation's Right to Water Declaration). In addition, concentrating on a single aid sector allows us to use project design variables to explain variations in projects' success – such as the type of installed infrastructure or if hygiene promotion activities were implemented. Previous studies pooled projects across different sectors and could hence only consider general project management variables to explain variations in projects' performance - such as project size and duration.

In addition to the evaluation ratings, we analyze the change in water supply between project start and evaluation to measure aid effectiveness. In particular, we use the change in water consumption in liters per capita and day as well as the change in the number of individuals collecting water from a safe source as quantitative indicators. These two indicators should be important to assess any water project. Increased access to safe water sources and increased water consumption are pre-conditions to reduce water-related diseases; hence, these indicators must be reached for a water project to be efficient, have a health impact, and be sustainable.

## Results

Against this background, we would expect that indicators of improved water supply are strongly and positively correlated with evaluation ratings and especially with the effectiveness ratings. We further expected that project management and project design variables that have a measurable impact on improved water access and consumption would also have a visible effect on (effectiveness) evaluation ratings. We have three major findings. First, changes in water supply are weakly correlated with evaluation ratings; this is also true for the sub-ratings that especially rate project effectiveness. Second, project management variables are strongly correlated with the evaluation ratings whereas project design variables are strongly correlated with improvements in water supply. A possible explanation for this result is that evaluators put more weight on a project's management and implementation than on its design and results. Third, depending on whether we use evaluation ratings or water supply indicators, we come to different conclusions (and policy recommendations) about the drivers of aid effectiveness. For example, hygiene promotion is related to a significant positive change in water consumption, but has no significant positive influence on the (effectiveness) evaluation ratings. In contrast, higher water tariffs increase the evaluation ratings, but decrease water access and consumption.

For a better understanding of the success factors of project aid, researchers and donors should, if possible, use objective project indicators in addition to evaluation ratings to evaluate project effectiveness. However, this will only become possible, if more donors provide full access to their project data, and if data is suited for quantitative analysis.

Source: Metzger, L. and I. Günther (2013). Analyzing Effectiveness of Development Aid Projects: Evaluation Ratings or Project Indicators? Courant Research Center Working Paper 154.



## Reflection

# Will the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) trigger action?

*Rolf Kappel, Prof. em. Problems of Developing Countries, ETH*

On 4 December 2014 the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, presented a report, in which he strongly advocated that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015. The SDGs were proposed by the Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, and they comprise 17 goals (see Table 1) and 169 targets.

For two reasons the difference between the SDGs and the MDGs is enormous. First, the scope of the SDGs is much broader, and the new agenda contains about twice as many goals and ten times as many targets as the MDGs. Second, while the MDGs focused on multidimensional poverty reduction in developing countries, the SDGs aim at a universal change towards ecological, economic and social sustainability in all countries. Although the impacts attributable to the MDGs are far from clear, there is broad agreement that they created additional action to reduce poverty. Can the much more ambitious SDGs trigger comparable global action towards sustainability?

It is widely agreed that the MDGs derived a large part of their political clout from being concise, clear and (by and large)

measurable. If this conclusion is correct, the intended comprehensiveness of the SDGs points in the wrong direction. Moreover, as currently formulated, many of the targets are unrealistic. For instance, literally “ending” extreme poverty and hunger by 2030 is even under the most optimistic assumptions of the World Bank out of reach (the Bank’s goal is to reduce extreme poverty to 3% at the global level). Numerous other SDG-targets, particularly those to be met for “all people” by 2030, are equally overambitious.

Many targets of the SDGs are also far from clear and measurable. Without quantitative target values, requests e.g. to increase “substantially” the efficiency of water-use or the use of renewable energy remain obscure. This also holds for other goals, such as for “responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels”. The SDGs include a large number of fuzzy targets, for which adequate indicators and data are not available. For all these targets the monitoring and evaluation of the agenda’s progress will be more opinion-based than evidence-based. This in turn bears the risk that the SDGs are taken less seriously by decision makers and will impede decisive actions.

The SDGs that focus on the protection of global and regional environmental goods, such as the climate, the oceans, terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, repeat goals already addressed and negotiated since many years in other global forums. For instance, commitments towards climate protection are determined in negotiations within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and will hardly be affected by the SDG-initiative. Although legitimate on a global agenda, the recurrence of these goals provides no value added and will have virtually no impact on ecological sustainability.

Besides addressing global challenges, many SDGs are national by nature and barely candidates for a global agenda – e.g. achieving full employment, resilient infrastructure or safe cities. Of course, the reduction of multidimensional poverty as stated in the MDGs reflects also a national goal in developing countries. However, it is at the same time an overarching goal for bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, which the international community translated through the MDGs into a global programme of action in addition to the existing efforts of international cooperation. It is very unlikely that many of the genuine national SDG-targets can be transformed into a comparable programme of global action. They lack both the decade-old determination and capacities of international cooperation on which the MDGs could build.

The targets aimed at inclusive institutions and peaceful and just societies repeat many aspects of international human rights declarations. While the political rights and civil liberties are enforceable in many countries, the economic, social and collective rights are not nearly as powerful. The impact of these second and third generation rights is virtually impossible to assess. It stands to reason to interpret the SDGs as a global agreement similar to human rights declarations. Compared to the measurable MDGs the predominantly fuzzy ambitions of the SDGs are based on a very different “theory of change”: their achievement does not “only” require selected policy changes, but fundamental changes of societal behaviour. As the history of human rights enforcement shows, this is a very long-term process.

Hence, before the new global agenda will be submitted to the General Assembly, the UN should clarify more precisely the purpose the SDGs are supposed to serve. At the same time some of the quantitative targets should be made more realistic than they appear in their current formulation, and their monitoring should be clearly separated from the non-measurable targets. Even then financial constraints and some sort of “global agenda-fatigue” may create major impediments to global action. Estimated annual investment and transfer requirements for the SDGs are a multiple of those for the MDGs, and the financial leeway that many countries had around the turn of the century is mostly gone. The same is true for the optimistic multilateralism after the end of the cold war, which led to a series of upbeat global conferences in the 1990s and finally to the MDGs. The world has changed since then, and disenchantment has replaced high-flying hopes.

*Table 1: The proposed 17 Sustainable Development Goals*

Goal 1:	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2:	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3:	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4:	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
Goal 5:	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6:	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7:	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
Goal 8:	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9:	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10:	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11:	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12:	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13:	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14:	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15:	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16:	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17:	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

(\*Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change)

Governments in developing countries probably welcome the all-encompassing SDGs, because a universal agenda now also obligates governments in industrial countries to report on progress and failure in a global framework. Many governments and non-governmental organisations that are charged with producing policy papers and monitoring reports as well as organising and attending international conferences will also be satisfied. However, the enormous broadening of the scope of the new agenda may dilute the global dedication to poverty reduction, and the poor may lose out. That must not happen.

The views expressed in the section „Reflections“ are those of the authors only and should not be attributed to any other person or institution.



nadeI **POLICY SUPPORT**

# Understanding the impact of livelihood promotion in Uganda

*Rudolf Batliner, Senior Scientist, NADEL*

The Livelihood Program is part of the mid-term plan “Facilitating Innovations for Children and Youth” of the Jacobs Foundation. Since 2013, NADEL coordinates a formative evaluation of three projects in three African countries. This evaluation is based on one and the same intervention logic. NADEL coordinates the evaluation, which is done in cooperation with Markus Maurer from PH Zurich (in Burkina Faso) and Ernst Bolliger from agridea (in Ivory Coast). Each consultant is responsible for one project – in my case the Youth Development Program (YDP) in Uganda. As a team we exchange the reports and meet regularly to reflect on the overarching logic model of the program.

This article focuses on the YDP. In the three years of its duration four project visits are foreseen. The first visit took place at the beginning of the project, the second 18 months later as a kind of mid-term review. Towards the end of 2015 we will undertake the final visit and two years from then an ex-post evaluation. For NADEL this mandate offers a unique opportunity because we can accompany a project from A to Z, study its effects closely and relate it to similar undertakings in other countries and contexts. As a positive side effect it gives us access

to practical project work that can be used in courses on PCM as well as on rural development.

YDP is implemented by the Hans R. Neumann Foundation and works in the coffee growing area of the Mityana district. It builds upon a successful project with adult coffee growers. It consists of three intervention lines: Farmer organization for bulk marketing of coffee, farmer field schools for increasing productivity and the so-called gender-household approach for joint decision making at the household level. The big concern of many parents was the prospects for their children. Will they stay in the communities and also adopt agriculture as the basis of their livelihood? The opinion of the adults about young people and their interest in agriculture was strikingly negative. Vocational training was seen as an attractive alternative to agriculture – also as a means for diversifying the development of the rural economy and livelihood opportunities.

Although result frameworks and logic models never can depict the full complexity of reality, they should help to answer at least the following questions: What should be different at the end of the project? Which support activities are needed



to trigger these changes and to enable the desirable long-term effects? In the case of YDP, the intended outcomes focus on three aspects: Attitude towards agriculture, (increase of) assets, and gainful (self-)employment of the graduates of the VET school. The intervention strategy consists of three activity lines: Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses for 80 young women and men, Youth Farmer Field Schools (YFFS) and the Gender Household Approach. Instead of growing coffee the YFFS teach the production of maize, beans and tomatoes. These are crops with a short cycle, stable markets and therefore quick returns.

At this point in time the monitoring data show little evidence regarding an increase of specific assets. The attitude towards agriculture was very positive at the beginning of the project – maybe due to expectations towards the project – and remains positive. Young people experience that modern farming can provide easy cash. Rich anecdotal evidence exists that changes have happened, which we did not have in our minds: Social life in the communities has become much more dynamic. The YFFS do more than just demonstrating how to grow specific crops. They have become youth organizations that organize events for sports, music, theatre etc. Some of them have started their own Village Saving and Loan Associations through which they lend money to each other for very diverse purposes. Regarding employment or self-employment of the first batch of graduates from the Vocational School, the situation was rather disappointing in September 2014. But certainly by then it was too early to draw conclusions. A surprising change has happened regarding the attitudes of the older generation towards youth. In the meetings with the Depot Committees we did not hear a single complaint about the useless youth. On the contrary, the young woman who heads the YFFS has become a board member in one of the Depot Committees.



The field visits, interviews and discussions led to considerable changes in the result chain. We had to integrate and show the social dynamics among youth triggered by the YFFS. The new result chain is more complex and depicts the situation more holistically. These two project visits showed me the value of result chains as communication tools. The flash cards firstly on the table and later on the board facilitated the discussions about causes and effects as well as about links and interactions among the activity lines. Writing the cards and revising the wording of the cards helped to increase the precision of the communication and therefore also of the clarity of the concepts and the project. Something similar happened with the stakeholder mapping. Moving the cards on the chart and visually finding their positions added quality to the discussion. Like the result chain, the map 2014 has become more complex, too. New actors appeared on the chart, others have lost importance or have even completely disappeared.

## 2014 NADEL policy support

Client	Task	Client	Task
Apia	Workshop Wirkungsorientierung	Migros Engagement	Zwei Workshops zu wirkungsorientiertem Projektmanagement
DEAZ/SDC	Drei PCM Einführungskurse zu Qualitätssicherung	Swisscontact	Moderation Seminar Berufsbildungshilfe (BBH)
DEZA/SDC	Results-Based Management – More Focus on Outcomes	UNDP	Background study for the Human Development Report 2015 on inequality in income and education between and across countries using EU-Silc and LIS data. Findings will be presented in the Human Development Report 2015.
DEZA/SDC	RIICE Backstopping Mandate for Coaching the Implementation of the Strategic Outcome Monitoring Concept, South Asia	UNESCO	Background study for the 2015 Education for All Global Monitoring Report on the determinants of national public expenditure on education. Findings will be presented in the UNESCO EFA report 2015.
Fastenopfer Schweiz	Wirkungsorientierung: Synopsebericht der Mid-term Reviews der 14 Landesprogramme		
Jacobs Stiftung	Begleitende Evaluation des Livelihood Ansatzes und des Youth Development Projektes, Uganda		
KfW Entwicklungsbank	Study on Financial Struggling of Urban Microfinance Clients, Uganda		



nade|TEACHING

## New MAS cycle started in September 2014

*Fritz Brugger, Marie Laure Müller, Senior Scientists, NADEL*

25 students together with the NADEL team started the new MAS cycle with a four day kick-off event in Valbella, Grisons. After these introductory days the study semester started to impart theoretical and empirical knowledge about the most important social, economic, political and environmental development processes. To this end, the semester comprised seven lecture series: (1) history and forms of development cooperation; (2) health, water and development; (3) cultural and social aspects of development; (4) development economics; (5) environment and natural resources; (6) food security and agriculture, and (7) politics and governance.

The lecture series contained several new lectures this year such as processes of decolonization in Africa, evidence-based behavioural change (in the field of sanitation), responsibility and normative aspects of development, international water conflicts, empirics and theory of modern conflicts. Moreover, through a simulation game, students were challenged to manage a small farming household. This included decisions on what to grow, what to buy, what to eat, and how to ensure family health, all of this while watching out for price rises, weather shocks and diseases – and then see the results of those decisions.

### **MAS Students work on the Swiss strategy for International Cooperation 2017-2020**

As in previous years, the MAS semester thesis were carried out in interdisciplinary groups of three students. In the past, the NADEL team presented a number of topics and the students formed groups according to their interests. This year, a different procedure was chosen: The Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) submitted a list with the topics that will be treated in the Federal Council Dispatch on International Cooperation 2017-2020. This is the strategic document guiding Switzerland's international cooperation. The Swiss government will present the Dispatch to the Parliament in early 2016. Both chambers of the Parliament will discuss and pass the Dispatch, which is also the basis for approving the budget for international cooperation by the Parliament.

The students chose the following eight topics from the SDC list: new actors in international cooperation; transition from humanitarian aid to development cooperation; new geography of poverty; urbanisation and urban poverty; climate and energy; mineral resources; fragile states; corporate social responsibility.

Based on their analysis of the topics, the students formulated policy recommendations on points they considered relevant for the Dispatch and the future of Swiss development cooperation. Members of the SDC team working on the preparation of the Dispatch took part in the presentations and enjoyed the lively discussions.

## New countries and organizations for project assignments added

After the written exams in January, the students started their project assignments with a broad range of organizations, including Caritas, Helvetas, IOM, SDC, SECO, Solidar, Swisscontact, Swiss TPH, and UNIDO. The list of countries includes: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burundi, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Kosovo, Laos, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Tadjikistan, Vietnam. And for the first time in 40 years NADEL history, students will work in Cuba and Myanmar.

## NADEL courses fall 2015

- 21. – 25. 09. 2015: Planung und Monitoring von Projekten
- 06. – 09. 10. 2015: Wirkungsanalysen: Methoden & Anwendungen
- 12. – 16. 10. 2015: M4P – Making Markets Work for the Poor
- 20. – 23. 10. 2015: Non-renewable Resources - Fueling Development or Undermining the Future?
- 26. – 30. 10. 2015: Participatory Approaches and Qualitative Methods
- 18. – 20. 11. 2015: Aktuelle strategische Fragen der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit – Fokus Ungleichheit
- 23. – 27. 11. 2015: Fragile States – Politics, Security and Development
- 30. – 04. 12. 2015: VET between Poverty Alleviation and Economic Development

## 2014 MAS graduates



### Michael Fink

For my MAS project assignment I had the opportunity to work for Swisscontact, setting up the monitoring and results measurement system of an agricultural market development project in Northern Mozambique. Besides gaining field experience in a challenging working environment, I have made valuable professional and personal contacts through NADEL and enhanced my theoretical and practical skills towards a future career in international cooperation. Currently I am working for Swisscontact in Pretoria, where I am responsible for the monitoring and results measurement of our projects in Southern Africa.



### Aline Dessarzin

After my MAS project assignment – which took me to Bosnia & Herzegovina for post-conflict peacebuilding – I started working with Solidar Suisse as Programme Officer Humanitarian Aid. When applying for the MAS, I certainly hoped for an outcome along these lines. The MAS functions as a door opener by providing the opportunity to gain practical experience abroad and by offering well-funded insights into the current concepts of development cooperation. Last but not least, I will surely not run out of possible travel locations to visit my friends and fellow MAS students all around the world.



### Michael Blaser

During my MAS field assignment I worked on agricultural market development projects in Bangladesh for SDC and Swisscontact. This has led to my current work in Nepal for HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. I support projects in Market Systems Development, i.e. in assessing the sector they work in, elaborating interventions to improve the way the market works for the poor. Having studied business administration and worked with food processors and retailers, I can consolidate my business background and the theoretical and practical knowledge from my MAS studies.



### Mirjam Moser

As a Programme Officer at Biovision I manage different grassroots projects in the area of Health and Sustainable Agriculture. I particularly like working at the interface between Switzerland and East Africa and being in close contact with the local implementing project partners. The MAS in Development & Cooperation complemented my background as a Biologist with relevant knowledge on development and practical experience. It's this one-year working assignment in Tanzania that is now of great value for my work at Biovision allowing me a better understanding of the project routine and daily realities in East Africa.

A close-up portrait of Rolf Kappel, an older man with white hair and blue eyes, looking slightly to the right. He is wearing a brown jacket over a striped shirt.

nadelPEOPLE

## Rolf Kappel retires after directing NADEL for 22 years

David Gugerli, Prof. Technikgeschichte, ETH

**Der nachfolgende Text ist eine gekürzte Fassung der Laudatio gehalten von Prof. David Gugerli an Rolf Kappels Abschiedsvorlesung vom 9. April 2014 (Videostream: <http://tinyurl.com/koz55ge>).**

Vor gefühlten 20 Jahren, genauer wollen wir es gar nicht wissen, hat mich Rolf Kappel an dieser Stelle bei meiner Antrittsvorlesung an der ETH willkommen geheissen. Er ging, wie jeder Ökonom es ganz selbstverständlich tut, von den verfügbaren Daten aus und extrapolierte das Vorhandene, sowenig es war, in die Zukunft. Ich weiss nur noch, dass er dabei von einer Grossbaustelle sprach und wenigstens damit Recht haben sollte.

Wenn ich Rolf Kappel vor seiner Abschiedsvorlesung kurz vorstellen darf, dann sind nicht nur unsere Rollen vertauscht. Auch die Datenlage ist eine ganz andere. Und das Verfahren hat sich sowieso geändert. Dennoch wäre es ein Irrtum zu glauben, als Historiker hätte ich es deshalb einfacher, weil ich mich bloss an die Fakten und Daten halten müsste. Wie hat Rolf unlängst angesichts der aktuellen Big Data Manie gesagt? „Modellieren wollten wir bereits in den 1970er Jahren, und wenn uns damals etwas nicht gefehlt hat, dann waren es Daten.“

Was Not tut, ist immer das sorgfältige Nachdenken, auch bei scheinbar bekannter Datenlage. Ich beginne trotzdem bei letzterem: Rolf Kappel ist am 24. Sept. 1948 in Blaubeuren geboren. Ein Tag, an dem sonst nichts Wesentliches passiert ist. Die Zeitungen berichteten das Übliche, etwa über die anhaltenden Schwierigkeiten der USA, von der Kriegswirtschaft wegzukommen, den Marshall-Plan in Gang zu setzen und bei aller wiedergewonnenen Sympathie für den freien Markt diesen wenigstens so steuern zu können, dass die staatlichen Stahlreserven für den nächsten Krieg reichen würden, wie die NZZ an diesem Tag festhielt.

Von dem, was die Ökonomie in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jh. bewegte, war dagegen nirgends die Rede. Bruttosozialprodukt? Fehlanzeige. Futures? Derivate? Kein Wort. GATT, Weltbank, IMF – gerade erst erfunden. Als kluger Junge der süddeutschen Nachkriegsgeneration tat Rolf, was man unter solchen Umständen tun musste: Er studierte ab 1967 an der Universität Freiburg i.B., lernte das Nachdenken über wirtschaftliche Zusammenhänge und promovierte 1977 an der Universität Zürich.

Aus wissenschaftshistorischer Sicht gäbe es an dieser Stelle viel zu fragen. Ich versuche mir vorzustellen, was Rolf Kappel

1967 als junger Student in volkswirtschaftlichen Grundkursen und Seminarien gelernt hat. Wie bewegte man sich, metaphorisch gesprochen, vom linear programming über die Grenzen des Wachstums und das Ende von Bretton Woods in eine neue Welt wirtschaftlicher Globalität, in der trotz einfachen Rezepten viel Unübersichtlichkeit herrschte? Nach Forschungstätigkeiten an der Uni Zürich, der ETH und am Wissenschaftszentrum in Berlin findet sich Rolf Kappels vorläufige Antwort in seinem ersten, 1979 erschienenen Buch: Kybernetische Simulationsmodelle in der Ökonomie. Ein Beitrag zur Theorie, Implementation und Validierung von Modellen der Wirtschaftskybernetik.

In den folgenden Jahren forschte Kappel an der ETH Zürich, wo er 1989 auch habilitiert wurde. Das war genau die Zeit, in der es in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit besonders unübersichtlich wurde und länderspezifische Zuständigkeiten des Kalten Krieges durcheinander gerieten, also „neue Wege aus der Entwicklungskrise“ gesucht werden mussten. Rolf Kappel blieb bei seiner grundsätzlichen entwicklungsökonomischen Interessenlage und versuchte, die Fragen, die sich im Kräftefeld von institutioneller Entwicklung, Entwicklungspolitik und umweltökonomischen Problemlagen stellten, in enger Zusammenarbeit mit andern Disziplinen zu lösen. Ein gutes Dutzend Bücher über Entwicklungsprobleme in Afrika, Asien und Lateinamerika sind aus diesem Interesse hervorgegangen, zahlreiche Dissertationen entstanden unter seiner Leitung. Internationale Forschungszusammenarbeit und Beratungsmandate bildeten eine weitere Achse der unermüdlichen Tätigkeit von Rolf Kappel.

Gleichzeitig leitete er, zuerst mit Ruedi Baumgartner und in den letzten Jahren mit Isabel Günther, das NADEL mit seinem multidisziplinären MAS und CAS in Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit, die mit hoher Lehrbelastung im aufwändigen Team-Teaching durchgeführt werden.

Wer nicht weiss, wie man das alles schafft, wird völlig ein-knicken bei einem Blick auf Rolf Kappels Rolle als Good Citizen der ETH. Acht Jahre Forschungskommission, 12 Jahre Departementsleitung, davon vier Jahre als Departementsvorsteher. Das ist nicht wirklich zu überbieten. Lassen Sie mich dazu noch einen kurzen abschliessenden Kommentar beisteuern, denn im Unterschied zu dem, was ich über Ökonomie berichtet habe, meine ich selber von Departementen auch etwas zu verstehen.

Rolf Kappel ist mir immer aufgefallen als jemand, der die selten trivialen, oft genug aber als trivial gedeuteten universitären Problemlagen kritisch zu prüfen sucht. Er lässt sich auf gute Argumente ein, aber sie müssen belastbar sein. Vor allem aber setzt er auf das, was man einst Legitimation durch Verfahren nannte. Das war seine Qualität als Departementsvorsteher in einer Zeit, in der die Abteilung XII nicht bloss formal neu aufgestellt wurde, sondern die Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften insgesamt nur dank der Neuausrichtung auf die ETH und dank der Funktion, die das Pflichtwahlfach dabei erhielt, an der ETH überleben konnten. Wie dünn die Luft damals in den Grenz-zonen zwischen Präsident, Rektor, Collegium Helveticum, altkonservativer und jungdynamischer Professorenschaft gewesen ist, weiss niemand besser als Rolf Kappel, der die Effekte mancher Hiobsbotschaft durch geeignete Reanimationstherapien bei diversen Fraktionen dramatisch lindern konnte. Im Übrigen ist es ihm zu verdanken, dass wir heute nicht am D-GESM, also dem Departement für Geistes-, Sozial- und Militärwissenschaften forschen, lehren und lernen, sondern die altehrwürdigen Staatswissenschaft im Departementsnamen tragen dürfen.

Rolf Kappel spricht heute über Institutionen. Das kann weder ein disziplingeschichtlicher noch biographischer Zufall sein.

## New at NADEL



### Marylin Jacobi

joined NADEL in November 2014. Together with Isabel Ott, Marylin is in charge of the secretariat at NADEL and at the Chair of Development Economics. Additionally, she is responsible for the support of CAS-students.



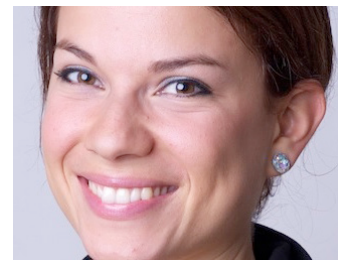
### Fritz Brugger

joined NADEL as senior scientist in November 2014. Fritz holds a PhD in Development Studies. He worked with Helvetas and as consultant to NGOs, bi- and multilateral institutions, and private companies. At NADEL, Fritz research interest is in natural resource management and governance issues.



### Linn Borgen Nilsen

joined NADEL as senior scientist in Oktober 2014. Linn studied at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU). She worked for FAO in Rwanda and Italy. Linn's research interest is in food security, agriculture, and management of natural resources in the context of rural development.



### Adina Rom

is PhD student at NADEL since September 2014. Adina holds a Masters in Public Administration/International Development (MPA/ID) from Harvard Kennedy School. Her research focuses on behavioral and experimental micro-economics.



NADEL Team (from left): Laura Metzger, Jan Schüpbach, Kenneth Harttgen, Nikita Trokhin, Marie-Laure Müller, Fritz Brugger, Isabel Günther, Elizabeth Tilley, Rudolf Batliner, Eva Hodel, Isabel Ott, Japheth Kwiringira (absent: Linn Borgen Nilsen, Adina Rom, Marylin Jacobi, Joeri Smits)

## NADEL Publications 2014

**Batliner, R.** (2014), Adapting the dual system of vocational education and training. In: Markus Maurer and Philipp Gonon (eds.). *The challenge of policy transfer in vocational skills development. National qualification frameworks and the dual model of vocational training in international cooperation.* Bern: Peter Lang: 285-302.

**Batliner, R.** (2014), Escuela y formación profesional en Liechtenstein. In Tarea. *Revista de educación y cultura* 86: 25-30.

**Brugger, F.** and Lizárraga Zamorra, K. (2014), Why Commodity Booms Have Not (Yet?) Boosted Human Capital: Bolivia's Struggle to Create a Skilled Workforce. In: Gilles Carbonnier, Michael Carton, and Kenneth King (eds.). *Education, Learning, Training: Critical Issues for Development.* Geneva, Boston: Graduate Institute Publications and Brill-Nijhoff: 81–101.

Fink, G., **Günther, I.** and Hill, K. (2014), Slum Residence and Child Health in Developing Countries. *Demography* 51 (4): 1175-1197.

Gross, E., and **Günther I.** (2014), Why do households invest in sanitation in rural Benin: Health, wealth, or prestige? *Water Resources Research* 50 (10): 8314–8329.

**Günther, I.** and Horst, A. (2014), Access to better Toilets – How to improve the sanitation situation in slum settlements. *Development and Cooperation* 55 (5): 193.

**Günther, I.** and Maier, J.K. (2014), Poverty, Vulnerability and Reference Dependent Utility. *Review of Income and Wealth* 60 (1): 155-181.

**Harttgen, K.** and Vollmer, S. (2014), A Reversal in the Relationship of Human Development with Fertility? *Demography* 51 (1): 173-184.

**Harttgen, K.** and Opfinger, M. (2014), National Identity and Religious Diversity. *Kyklos* 67 (3): 346-367.

Kwiringira, J., Atekyereza, P., Niwagaba, C. and **Günther, I.** (2014), Descending the sanitation ladder in urban Uganda: evidence from Kampala Slums. *BMC Public Health* 14: 624.

McMillan, M. S. and **Harttgen, K.** (2014), What is driving the 'African Growth Miracle'? NBER Working Paper No 20077.

**Tilley, E.**, Strande, L., Lüthi, C., Mosler, H. J., Udert, K. M., Gebauer, H. and Hering, J. G. (2014), Looking beyond Technology: An Integrated Approach to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Low Income Countries. *Environmental Science & Technology* 48 (17): 9965-9970.

**Tilley, E.**, and **Günther, I.** (2014), Mobile phones for collecting WASH data in Low-income countries. In: *Proceedings of the 37th WEDC International Conference.* 15–19 September 2014, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Vollmer, S., **Harttgen, K.**, Subramanyam, M.A., Finlay, J., Klasen, S. and Subramanian, S.V. (2014), Economic Growth Associated with Reduction in Child Undernutrition? Evidence from 115 Demographic and Health Surveys from 37 Low- and Middle-income Countries. *The Lancet Global Health* 2 (4): e225-e234.