



nadelNEWS 2/16

Editorial

Reflection

Entwicklungshilfe baut auf Fakten

Consulting

From evidence to practice

Research

How does information about aid impact influence charitable giving?

Students

Do cocoa sustainability labels have positive development effects?

Teaching

The career path of NADEL Alumni – insights from a tracer study

People

Marie-Laure Müller: Seit 25 Jahren Herz und Seele des NADEL

Dear Alumni

Dear Friends of NADEL

I hope you had a summer break which included some extra time to read a book you had always wanted to read or to visit a friend you had not seen for a while. We used the summer to write another issue of the nadelNews. Again, we have decided on a particular topic for all contributions: impact. We chose this topic because many of our ongoing research projects are aiming to understand which development policies work (and which don't) and (most importantly) why.

nadelReflection (page 3) is a reprint of an article I wrote for the Volkswirtschaft on improving aid effectiveness, with a call for a better learning and failure culture on the one hand and for an end to the debate on "does aid work?" on the other; instead, I advocate a discussion about "which policies work to reduce poverty and inequality?"

nadelResearch (page 7) is a summary of an ongoing research project of Laura Metzger analyzing if private donors are interested in the impact of their donation and how information about aid effectiveness changes donation decisions.

nadelStudents (page 9) was written by Romina Jermann. The text is a summary of the policy essay she wrote as part of her MAS studies. It outlines the existing evidence on the impact of sustainability labels for cocoa, a key ingredient in chocolate, one of Switzerland's most known exports. More policy essays from the batch of students who successfully completed their MAS studies this June can be found [here](#).

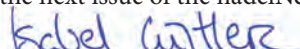
nadelConsulting (page 10): Linn Borgen Nilsen gives an overview of a collaboration between SDC and NADEL to strengthen the use of impact evaluations and evidence-based policy making, including a conference (June 2015), an award (November 2015), a workshop (February 2016) and a study on the use of impact evaluations in bilateral development cooperation (since June 2016).

nadelTeaching (page 11): I often find that the biggest "impact" a teacher can achieve is through the students one supported in learning. To better understand the impact of the NADEL teaching program, we have conducted a tracer study among our MAS students. This study is not measuring the impact of the MAS in a strict scientific sense (given that we do not have a control group), but it will still help us to understand the careers of NADEL alumni and further develop the MAS. We have already taken up one suggestion that was made by one of the survey respondents and are currently implementing a "Götti"-System for the new batch of MAS students.

nadelPeople: Marie-Laure Müller – the heart and soul of NADEL – celebrated her 25th anniversary with ETH and NADEL last year. It is safe to say that Marie-Laure Müller has had one of the biggest impact of all NADEL team members on the careers (and lives) of NADEL alumni. We would like to use this issue of the NADEL news (page 13) to thank her for her continuous interest in and support for every student and team member at NADEL.

Last, but not least, this newsletter includes an overview of the courses offered in 2017 (page 14). For the first time, we are publishing the dates for the entire coming year. We also switched several courses from German to English, so that anybody from interested partner organizations is able to participate. English courses are marked with an E. We hope that you find both changes useful.

As always, we are eager to hear from our Alumni and, if you like, include any news of you in the next issue of the nadelNews.


Isabel Günther

Impressum

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Reflection

Wirksame Entwicklungshilfe baut auf Fakten*

Isabel Günther, Chair of Development Economics, ETH Zürich

Die UNO hat letztes Jahr mit der Agenda 2030 die Anzahl der internationalen Entwicklungsziele erhöht: von 8 Millenniumszielen auf 17 Nachhaltigkeitsziele (SDG) mit 169 Unterzielen. Fast gleichzeitig wurde in einigen Ländern – darunter die Schweiz – das Budget für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit gekürzt. Wie passt das zusammen? Wie soll mit weniger Mitteln mehr erreicht werden? Klar ist: Begrenzte Mittel erfordern einen effektiven Einsatz von Geldern und eine wirksame Entwicklungszusammenarbeit.

Ein Massstab für die Wirksamkeit ist weder die plangetreue Umsetzung von Projekten noch, ob jeder Rappen bei den Armen ankommt. Sondern es geht darum, wie stark jeder Rappen, der ankommt, die Lebensbedingungen armer Menschen langfristig verbessert (siehe Kasten).

In den letzten 25 Jahren wurde die globale Armut halbiert. Welchen Beitrag die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit hierzu geleistet hat, ist mit makroökonomischen Studien nicht präzise zu analysieren.¹ Allerdings zeigen viele wissenschaftliche Studien auf, dass spezifische Interventionen in unterschiedlichen Kontexten effektiv die Lebensbedingungen ärmerer Bevölke-

rungsgruppen verbessert haben.² Trotz grosser Fortschritte in der Vergangenheit bleibt jedoch die weltweite Reduktion von Armut und Ungleichheit eine Herausforderung für die Zukunft.

Mit wissenschaftlichen Methoden lernen

Wie kann die Wirksamkeit erhöht werden? Von Erfolgen und Fehlern in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit muss noch mehr gelernt werden. Es ist an der Zeit, endlich von der alten Debatte «Wirkt Entwicklungshilfe, ja oder nein?» wegzukommen und eine neue Debatte anzustossen: «Welche Form der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit in welchen Kontexten wirkt und welche nicht?» Die Identifizierung von wirksamen Entwicklungsinterventionen mithilfe von wissenschaftlich anerkannten Methoden³ sollte nicht nur im Interesse der Befürworter der Entwicklungshilfe sein, zu denen 9 von 10 Einwohnern in der Schweiz zählen,⁴ sondern auch im Sinne der Kritiker.

Armutsbekämpfung ist komplex. Das sollte uns aber nicht davon abhalten, bessere Mittel und Wege zu suchen, um diese Herausforderung anzugehen. Dazu muss bestehendes Wissen

genutzt und Wissenslücken müssen identifiziert und geschlossen werden. Entwicklungszusammenarbeit sollte so weit wie möglich auf Fakten und nicht auf Meinungen aufbauen.

Das heisst nun nicht, dass jedes einzelne Projekt oder Programm der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit evaluiert werden muss. Es muss auch nicht jedes Unterfangen seinen eigenen Datenfriedhof generieren. Daten werden gesammelt, aber oft fehlen die Zeit und die Kapazität, diese Daten auszuwerten und die daraus gewonnenen Erkenntnisse anzuwenden. Studien zur Wirksamkeit der Entwicklungshilfe sollten nicht nur der Rechenschaftspflicht einer Organisation dienen, sondern sollten vor allem zu einer kontinuierlichen Verbesserung von Entwicklungsprogrammen führen, ganz im Sinne des französischen Schriftstellers André Gide: «Croyez ceux qui cherchent la vérité, doutez de ceux qui la trouvent.»

Die Generierung von entwicklungspolitisch relevantem Wissen sollte sich nicht auf die eigene Organisation beschränken: Lernen muss über Institutionen hinweg stattfinden. Die Zukunft der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit liegt auch darin, mehr in globales Wissen zur Armutsreduktion zu investieren⁵ und dieses zu nutzen.

Ehrlichkeit auch bezüglich der Herausforderungen

Entwicklungszusammenarbeit soll in Zukunft nicht nur zur Armutsreduktion beitragen, sondern soll sich gemäss der Agenda 2030 zusätzlich noch anderen globalen Problemen (wie Klimawandel und internationaler Sicherheit) stellen. Es ist sicher richtig, dass zur Verbesserung von weltweiten Lebensbedingungen nicht nur ökonomische, sondern genauso soziale, politische und ökologische Entwicklung gehört und ein ganzheitlicher Ansatz gefragt ist. Aber können wir all diese Herausforderungen mit den Instrumenten der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit angehen, deren Finanzierung noch reduziert wird? Entwicklungshilfe ist nicht die Lösung für alle globalen Probleme.

Wirkungsstudien

Wirkungsstudien in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit quantifizieren die Veränderung der Lebensbedingungen der Bevölkerung (Individuen, Haushalte, Dörfer oder Firmen), die einem Projekt oder einer Politikmassnahme direkt zugeschrieben werden kann. Die Frage, welche hierzu beantwortet werden muss, ist: Was wäre gewesen, hätte keine Entwicklungsintervention stattgefunden? Die methodische Herausforderung besteht darin, dass dieselbe Person nicht gleichzeitig mit und ohne Intervention betrachtet werden kann. Mithilfe einer geeigneten Stichprobengrösse und verschiedener (meist statistischer) Methoden wird deshalb eine Vergleichsgruppe konstruiert, die der Bevölkerung, die Teil des zu analysierenden Projekts ist, so ähnlich wie möglich ist.

Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Schweizer Hilfswerke Alliance Sud hat 2015 ein Buch mit dem Titel «Zur Unübersichtlichkeit der Welt»⁶ publiziert. Dieser Unübersichtlichkeit der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit würde ich gerne eine neue Ehrlichkeit der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit an die Seite stellen: Durch unzählige Studien⁷ haben wir in den letzten Jahren viel darüber gelernt, welche Art von Interventionen funktionieren und welche nicht. Sowohl über Erfolge als auch über Misserfolge sollte offener kommuniziert und diskutiert werden, ohne dabei unsere humanitäre Pflicht gegenüber den eine Milliarde Armen der Welt⁸ jedes Mal infrage zu stellen. Nur so können wir lernen und Verbesserungspotenziale identifizieren.

Ebenso gilt es, offener zu kommunizieren, was mit den begrenzten Mitteln von insgesamt rund 3,5 Milliarden Franken öffentlicher und privater Entwicklungsgeldern,⁹ die in der Schweiz zur Verfügung stehen, weltweit überhaupt erreicht werden kann. Ehrlichkeit bezüglich der offenen Fragen von Entwicklungszusammenarbeit ist gefragt. Denn: Für viele scheinbar einfache Entwicklungsprobleme, wie zum Beispiel die kostengünstige und nachhaltige Bereitstellung von sauberem Trinkwasser in ruralen Gebieten, gibt es (noch) keine guten Lösungen. Auch müssen wir akzeptieren, dass aus methodischer Sicht nicht alle Entwicklungsprojekte und -programme bezüglich ihrer Wirksamkeit evaluiert werden können.

Kernkompetenzen stärken

Kontinuierliches Lernen für einen bestmöglichen Einsatz von Entwicklungsgeldern erfordert Fokussierung. Eine Entwicklungsorganisation kann nicht auf allen Gebieten der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Spezialistin sein. Bei 169 Unterzielen der Agenda 2030 besteht des Weiteren die Gefahr, die Reduzierung der weltweiten Armut und Ungleichheit aus den Augen zu verlieren: Die Beendigung des weltweiten Hungers (Ziel 2.1) ist dort genauso aufgelistet wie die Förderung von nachhaltigem Tourismus (Ziel 8.9).

Nach der breiten Auslegung der Agenda 2030, die richtigerweise die Komplexität von Entwicklung und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit widerspiegelt, sollten wir uns jetzt wieder fokussieren. Die Agenda 2030 ist nicht als Zielekatalog für Organisationen zu verstehen, sondern nur als normativer Rahmen für eine lebenswerte Zukunft, zu der jede Organisation ihren ganz spezifischen Beitrag leisten kann.

Fokus erlaubt es einer Organisation, sich zu professionalisieren, um ihre Mittel effektiv einzusetzen. Er ermöglicht es ihr, mehr Verantwortung für durchgeführte Programme zu tragen. Fokus ist auch nötig, um zu vermeiden, dass Gelder, die für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit vorgesehen wurden, für sachfremde Zwecke, wie zum Beispiel den Klimaschutz, verwendet werden. Dafür sind andere Budgets erstellt worden.



Koordination der gesamten Politik

Will man die Wirksamkeit der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit erhöhen, müssen die verschiedenen Politikbereiche – darunter etwa die Finanz- und Handelspolitik – besser koordiniert werden. Denn: Entwicklungszusammenarbeit ist ein wichtiger Baustein zur Armutsreduktion, aber nicht der einzige. Exemplarisch seien hier unlautere Finanzflüsse aus den Entwicklungsländern genannt, die jährlich ungefähr das Zehnfache der internationalen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit ausmachen.¹⁰

Eine vollkommene Politikkohärenz wird man nie erreichen. Zu gegensätzlich sind die Interessen und Ziele von verschiedenen Akteuren. Jedoch kann eine verbesserte Politikkoordination und -kooperation mit Abwägen von verschiedenen

Interessen zu einer wirksameren Schweizer Entwicklungszusammenarbeit führen.

Eine verstärkte Koordination der Politikbereiche führt nicht nur zu einer erhöhten Kohärenz der Schweizer Entwicklungspolitik, sondern kann zusätzlich zu einer sinnvollen Arbeitsteilung führen, um mit verschiedenen Instrumenten und Mitteln verschiedene globale Ziele wirksam anzugehen. Entwicklungsorganisationen können sich dafür engagieren, dass auch andere Politikbereiche ökonomische, soziale und politische Entwicklungsziele stärker in ihren Agenden berücksichtigen.

*Dieser Artikel ist zuerst erschienen in Die Volkswirtschaft 3/2016.

Fussnoten

- 1 Channing Arndt, Sam Jones und Finn Tarp (2015)
- 2 Vgl. Datenbank «Impact Evaluations» der Non-Profit-Organisation 3ie unter www.3ieimpact.org
- 3 Angrist, Joshua und Jörn-Steffen Pischke (2014)
- 4 GFS (2014)
- 5 Levine, Ruth und William Savedoff (2015)
- 6 Alliance Sud (2015)
- 7 3ieimpact.org
- 8 Stichwort Poverty–Overview unter Weltbank.org
- 9 Deza, Zahlen und Statistiken
- 10 Kar, Dev und Joseph Spanjers (2014)

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- 3ieimpact.org/en/evidence/impact-evaluations (20.01.2016)
- Eda.admin.ch/deza/de/home/aktivitaeten_projekte/zahlen_und_statistiken.html (20.01.2016)
- Worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview (20.01.2016)

From evidence to practice

Linn Borgen Nilsen, Senior Scientist, NADEL

Within the framework of the International Year of Evaluation in 2015, NADEL and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) initiated a process to support the use of impact studies.

Impact conference, June 2015

This started with a one-day conference in Bern, titled “From evidence to practice: How NGOs can benefit from impact studies”. The aim of the conference was to stimulate future impact studies, through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and lessons learnt. It also brought together local and international organizations working in development, including 120 participants from more than 70 different Swiss NGOs.

Invited speakers from leading organizations in the field, namely the International Initiative for Impact Evaluations (3ie), SolarAid and Evidence Action provided perspectives from their work – all highlighting the need to generate more and higher quality evidence on what works in development and why.

“NGOs should see impact studies as an opportunity for improving their interventions and to become knowledge leaders in their areas of work.”

Isabel Günther

A parallel poster session illustrated 13 impact studies done by Swiss NGOs. Each case study was briefly presented by the responsible NGO, before the participants had an opportunity to discuss them in more detail at the poster stands. Issues of interest included data collection and indicators, methodology and data analysis, and the use and sharing of the results.

What is an impact study?

An impact study assesses changes in the wellbeing of individuals, households, or communities that can be attributed to a particular project, program or policy. The central impact study question is what would have happened to those receiving the intervention, if the intervention had not been undertaken? Impact studies are needed to understand which interventions work, which don't – and why.

During the conference, it was noted that rigorous studies evaluating the impact of particular interventions are used to a lesser extent by Swiss NGOs working in the development sector, and that this is an area that demands more focus. The conference was therefore seen as a useful first step to advocate for more use of impact studies, using scientifically sound methods, and to learn from leading international organizations in this field.

Impact Award, November 2015

The conference also provided an opportunity for SDC and NADEL to introduce a call for proposals for an impact study award, inviting Swiss NGOs to submit proposals, which would be fully (or partly) funded by SDC. The condition was that the proposed studies should analyse the impact of a development-related intervention in a low-income country, using rigorous methods.

By the submission deadline, 17 Swiss NGOs had submitted a proposal. These went through a systematic evaluation process with external reviewers. Based on the relevance of the proposed study, the quality of the study design, the efficiency of resource use and the feasibility of the implementation plan, the winning proposals were identified. The three best proposals, submitted by Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (HEKS), Terre des hommes and Vivamos Mejor were presented at an award ceremony at ETH Zurich in November 2015. Two of the proposals, „Improving Child Health Services with Innovative Mobile Health Tools in Burkina Faso“ (TdH) and „Professional and Comprehensive Community Child Care in Las Feria/La Dorado, Colombia“ (Vivamos mejor), received a financial contribution to conduct an impact study, which is currently being undertaken.

SDC and NADEL are now looking forward to the submission of the results from the two impact studies, which are expected in September 2017. The results of these studies, as well as the lessons learnt, will be shared with a larger audience in fall next year.

In collaboration with the SDC, NADEL is conducting a study on the understanding, use, creation, and sharing of empirical evidence and impact evaluations in major donor organizations and at SDC in particular.



nadeI RESEARCH

How does information about aid impact influence charitable giving?

Laura Metzger, Post-Doc Chair of Development Economics

The importance of individual donors

A considerable share of foreign aid is financed by private individuals. According to national statistics, private charitable giving amounted to 15.5% of Swiss official development aid in 2013. The share of private aid in the official foreign aid stemming from OECD/DAC member countries rose by 28.6% between 2005 and 2013. The numbers suggest that individual donors can help to improve the lives of the poor, provided that they give to non-profit organizations (NGOs) whose development projects generate a significant welfare impact.

The concept of aid impact

In development economics, an aid intervention is considered to have a positive impact if it results in a measurable and meaningful increase in individual welfare. That means that people should experience a sensible improvement in their lives (e.g. their health), because they participated in a (e.g. health related) development intervention.

But how can policy actors know that it was their intervention that improved a person's life, and not some other factor outside their area of influence? Answering this question requires the use of statistical methods that can identify the causal effect of a development intervention on poverty. One such method is a field experiment known as Randomized Control Trial (RCT). Over the past decade, research based on RCTs has expanded our knowledge about interventions that effectively reduce poverty at the individual level - in a broad range of sectors.

Do individual donors care about impact?

Since individual donors can help reduce poverty by giving to effective interventions, it is important to understand whether they care about the welfare impact of their donation, or, more specifically, whether individual donors incorporate existing knowledge about aid effectiveness into their decision making. We addressed this question in a donation experiment with Swiss university students. First, we investigated if people want information about the impact of an education project before making a donation decision. Second, we analyzed if and

how information about aid impact changes individual donation behavior. Finally, we studied how strongly people value information about aid impact compared to information about the recipient of a donation, or the administrative costs of an NGO.

A randomized donation experiment

In spring 2014, we invited 265 university students to ETH's Decision Science Laboratory to investigate the relevance of aid impact for individual donors. Students were paid 36 Swiss Francs on average for participating in our one-hour experiment. After completing a number of tasks, students could decide whether they wanted to donate to an international Swiss NGO that provides education aid for poor children and teenagers.

Our experimental design had two key elements. First, we assigned the participants to one of three information groups: aid impact, recipient type, or administrative costs. Second, each group was offered detailed information about the exact use of a donation for 30 Rappen (less than 1% of their average earnings). Participants then decided individually whether they wanted to buy this information before making their donation decision.

The aid impact group was offered information about whether a donation was matched with a higher (1.5 additional weeks of schooling per 1 CHF donated) or a lower impact (1 additional week of schooling per 1 CHF donated) project. The administration costs group was offered information about whether a donation was matched with an NGO with high (40%) or low (10%) administrative costs. The recipient type group was offered information about whether a donation was matched with an education project for children or teenage artists. Hence, the participants were confronted with two possible donation outcomes and had to buy information if they wanted to know exactly which outcome they were assigned.

Main results of the study

In total, 56% of the participants made a donation to charity. Average donations, including non-donors, amounted to 2.45 CHF. Overall, only 28% of the participants decided to buy information about the exact use of their donation in order to make a well-informed decision. The participants were least interested in information about aid impact (18.5% information buyers), and most interested in information about the recipient type (41% information buyers). 28.5% was interested in the information about the exact administrative costs related to their donation.

In line with this demand pattern, individual responses to information about the recipient type and administrative costs were stronger than responses to information about aid impact. In particular, informed participants "rewarded" their preferred recipient, children, with donations well above the overall aver-

age, while they "punished" the NGO with high administrative costs with donations well below the overall average.

Why were people less responsive to information about aid impact? A first possible explanation is based on a framing effect. Framing means that the different decision contexts created by the three information types led to differences in peoples' willingness to buy information and to donate. The way we presented the information about aid impact probably kept the participants from taking a major interest in the topic. We used a very neutral language and focused on statistics instead of a personalized narrative. Previous research has shown that people are more empathetic and generous towards single identified individuals (e.g. with a picture and/or a name) than "statistical" victims who are presented as a group.

A second possible explanation is that individuals find information about recipient types and administrative costs more important, because these topics still dominate much of the content that charity organizations communicate in fundraising campaigns and donation guidelines. This "communication bias" may have contributed to a lack of awareness about the importance of aid impact for charitable giving.

Outlook

Our results do not deliver proof that most donors do not care about the welfare impact of their donation. Too few studies on this topic exist to draw any definite conclusions. One important question that remains from our study is whether we could have sparked more interest in aid impact if we had framed the corresponding information differently. We are currently designing a study to look into this in more detail.



Trade STUDENTS

Do cocoa sustainability labels have positive development effects?

*Romina Jermann, MAS-Alumni 2016, NADEL**

Around 5 million farmers worldwide grow cocoa. Most of them are smallholder farmers. The largest cocoa producer countries are Ivory Coast and Ghana, followed by Indonesia. Due to the large concentration of powerful companies, smallholder farmers only receive around 40% of the world market prices. Further sustainability issues are declining farm productivity, child labor on cocoa farms, deforestation and the inappropriate use of pesticides (Potts et al., 2014). The end consumers of chocolate products are increasingly aware of these challenges (Bethge, 2014), putting international brands under pressure to source sustainable products (Kuit & Waarts, 2014). Major players have formulated sustainable sourcing commitments. One way to keep their promises is to use external certification labels. On an international level, 22% of the cocoa production is certified. The three largest labels are UTZ, Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade (Potts et al., 2014).

The label jungle

All three certification schemes – UTZ, Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade – have a similar vision, which is to reduce poverty

and improve the environment by defining criteria within the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, environmental, and social dimension. However, every label has its own thematic focus. UTZ emphasizes the economic dimension of sustainable development, which includes, for example, the implementation of good agricultural practices, as well as pesticide and fertilizer application. Rainforest Alliance focuses on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, which includes ecosystem and conservation, as well as wildlife protection. Fairtrade emphasizes the social dimension of sustainable development, which includes the payment of a minimum price and a premium that translates into a Fairtrade Development Plan for the community.

Farm productivity, child labor, and environment

Studies show that the thematic focus is reflected in the ability of the label to tackle current challenges in the cocoa sector. For example, the UTZ label managed to improve farm productivity of the respective cocoa farms (economic dimension). Mole-

naar (2016) evaluated UTZ certification for cocoa in Indonesia, as did Ingram et al. (2014) in the Ivory Coast and Dengerink (2013) in Ghana. They found that certification leads to a higher implementation of good agricultural practices on farms (such as pruning and weeding), and therefore to a higher level of yields.

The Rainforest Alliance certification managed to promote the use of more environmentally friendly practices (environmental dimension). Krain, Miljard, Konan and Servat (2011) report that Rainforest Alliance certified farmers in Ivory Coast had a better understanding of natural ecosystems than uncertified farmers. Certified farmers planted shade trees for the first time and wildlife areas were marked for protection. Moreover, Bethge (2014) found that Rainforest Alliance certification reduced the misuse of prohibited chemicals or disadvantageous amounts of legal chemicals. The same studies revealed that Rainforest Alliance also managed to improve farm productivity of the cocoa farms (economic dimension).

Studies on the effects of Fairtrade certification show that the label effectively works towards the elimination of child labour (social dimension). Tulane University (2011) studied the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative in Ghana, where the auditing company FLO-CERT found child labour during their audits and consequently suspended the respective cocoa farming communities from the program. The cooperative then initiated a child labor awareness program and implemented a corrective action plan. After follow-up audits the suspension was lifted. Moreover, Fairtrade effectively empowers farmer groups through capacity building activities (Nelson and Galvez, 2000; DFID, 2000). Fairtrade International plays an important role in assisting cooperative in trade facilitation in addition to providing training on organizational topics, management topics and technical issues.

What is the long-term impact?

The positive effects of sustainability certification on farm productivity, working conditions, capacity building and the use of more environmentally friendly practices have been demonstrated. Each label has its own thematic focus that is also reflected in the effects of the label. However, these effects seem to be on an outcome level rather than on an impact level. The question is whether certification schemes can realize their vision of reducing poverty and improving environment in the long run.

Unfortunately, studies that analyze the long-term impact of certification on poverty are rare. Some studies analyze the impact of sustainability certification on cocoa farmers' income. For example, Bennett et al. (2012) found a positive effect of Rainforest Alliance certification on cocoa farmers' income in Côte d'Ivoire. The Committee on Sustainability Assessment analyzed sustainability certification for cocoa and coffee in 12 countries. The average net income was higher with certified farmers than uncertified farmers, but only by a small 7% (COSA,

2013). Nelson et al. (2013) analyzed Fairtrade certification in Ghana and found a neutral effect on farmers' income due to the low marketability rate of Fairtrade cocoa. Ingram et al. (2014) also found a neutral effect. They stated that the higher yields did not translate to a positive impact on income, because UTZ certified farmers have significantly higher production costs such as increased labor and technology investment.

One of the main reasons for these diverse results might be the cost of certification. First, the studies have different ways of calculating costs of certification. Second, in some cases external partners such as NGOs or development agencies covered parts of the certification costs, which can also influence the results. Finally, costs of certification are highly dependent on the crop and the country context. It is therefore hard to conclude whether sustainability certification has a positive, neutral or even negative effect on farmers' income.

*Romina Jerman spent her project assignment in a cocoa project in Indonesia. This article is a summary of her MAS thesis.

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nadelTEACHING

The career path of NADEL Alumni – insights from a tracer study.

Darcy Molnar, Senior Research Associate, NADEL

In September 2015 we sent out an online tracer study to 206 alumni who attended NADEL's Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) or Nachdiplomstudium (NDS) between 1994 and 2012. Thanks for everybody who took the time to fill out the questionnaire. We had three main questions in mind when designing the questionnaire:

- Who are the incoming students?
- What are the career paths of the alumni?
- How do the MAS students evaluate the program?

We will use the results of this tracer study to further develop the MAS program. Currently, NADEL is conducting a similar tracer study among its CAS (Certificate of Advanced Studies) alumni.

Incoming students

The average age of incoming students is 29 years, with a 2 year gap between their Master studies and the MAS Development and Cooperation. When students apply to the program, 65% of them have already been employed, while 20% have been

interns in development cooperation. MAS students are primarily Swiss, with 60% of the respondents having a Master degree (or equivalent) from the University of Zürich, the University of Basel, the University of Bern, or ETH Zurich. For more than 80% of the students, the most important reasons for joining the program were the reputation of ETH, better job prospects abroad, and a change in career. As indicated in Figure 1, MAS students come from a wide range of academic backgrounds which always leads to the most interesting discussions in the class room and reflects the heterogeneity of development cooperation.

Entering the labor market

The results of the study indicate that NADEL's program enhances students' opportunities on the job market. As seen in Figure 2, 70% of the graduates found a job within 3 months of completing the MAS. 92% of the alumni stated that the MAS facilitated their career development, and in most cases (77%) the alumni's first employment after the MAS was closely related to the MAS program's contents and activities (Figure 3).

Working in various sectors

Alumni were asked to categorize their first, second, third, and fourth employment after their NADEL studies by sector. As shown in Figure 4, MAS alumni have found employment with NGOs, bilateral development organizations, other public sectors, international development organizations, foundations, universities, and the private sector. Over time, many alumni seem to move from a first employment with NGOs to bilateral and international development organizations. Our results also show that later in their careers MAS alumni tend to become policy advisors and country directors, whereas analyst positions are mainly held by recent graduates. The 134 alumni who responded to the NADEL tracer study are currently working in a wide range of organizations both in Switzerland and abroad, from multilateral (e.g. World Bank, UNDP) and bilateral institutions (e.g. SECO, SDC, GIZ) to NGOs (e.g. Swisscontact, Helvetas, HEKS) and the private sector (e.g. Responsibility, Blue Orchard). The MAS class of 2014 has just finished their studies. We are already curious to follow their career paths.

Keeping in touch

Through the MAS program, students develop strong personal friendships and a unique professional network. 48% of respondents personally know up to 25 MAS alumni and 49% of the respondents know up to 50 alumni. 77% of MAS alumni regularly (i.e. at least twice per year) meet 1-10 alumni, and 16% are personally in contact with up to 20 alumni. Only 6% are not in regular contact with other alumni. These results indicate that an informal NADEL alumni network already exists at a small scale, but could be formalized and extended. Since 52% of respondents stated that they would be interested in joining a NADEL network we hope that the NADEL alumni organization found in 2015 will grow in the coming years. Moreover, in 2016 we will for the first time organize a „Gotte/Götti“ system for the incoming MAS students to facilitate exchange between seniors and juniors of NADEL.

More results can be found on the NADEL website.

We would like to thank the alumni who took the time to fill out our survey. As a token of our appreciation, we are donating 670 CHF to KAM FOR SUD, a Swiss NGO that is building bridges between Switzerland and Nepal. The funds will go to KAM FOR SUD's post earthquake reconstruction efforts.

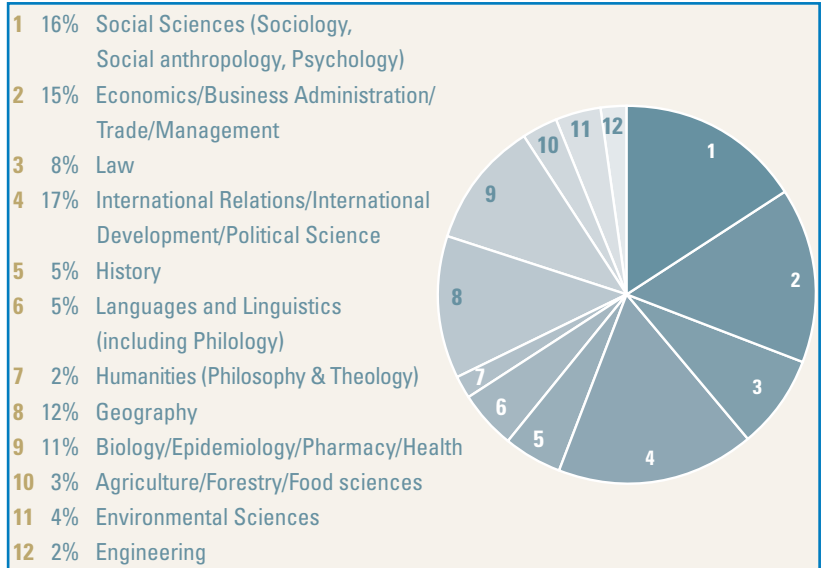


Figure 1: Academic education of NDS/MAS students

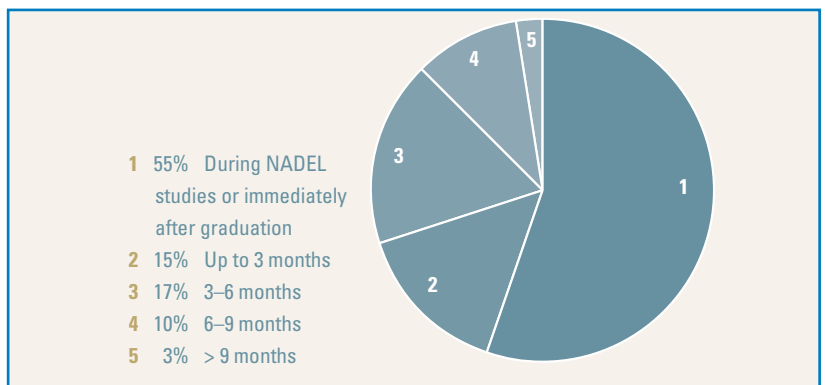


Figure 2: Time needed to find a job after completion of the NDS/MAS

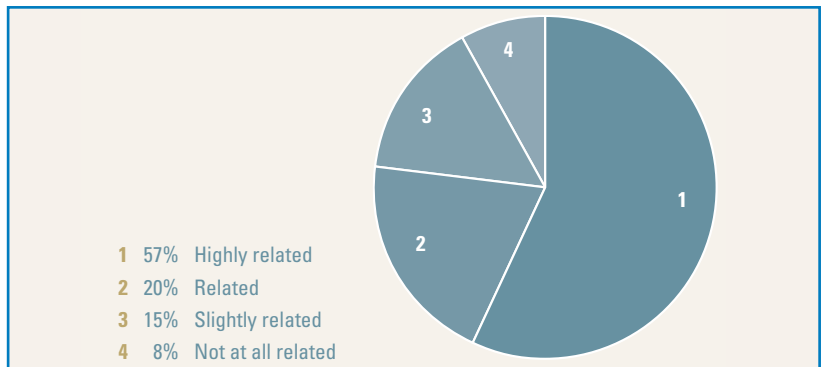


Figure 3: Relation between contents of the NDS/MAS and first employment after NADEL

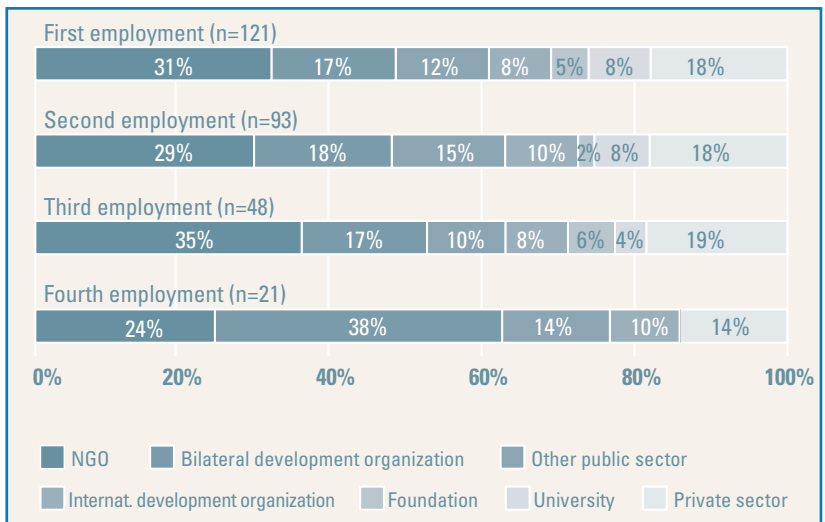


Figure 4: NDS/MAS career path

nadelPEOPLE

Marie-Laure Müller: seit 25 Jahren Herz und Seele des NADEL

Liebe Marie-Laure

Eingraviert in unseren Eheringen „15. Juli 1955“: Der Tag unseres feierlichen Eheversprechens – und das Geburtsdatum von Marie-Laure Müller. Begegnet sind wir uns freilich erst mehr als 25 Jahre später, im ersten NADEL Jahreskurs 1981/82. Nach ihren erfolgreichen Feldeinsätzen mit UNHCR konnte ich Marie-Laure 1990 als Mitarbeiterin gewinnen. Mit 25 Dienstjahren wird sie nun allein von Monika Kramer, der langjährigen Sekretärin, überboten – ein klarer Beweis, wie nachhaltig NADEL von engagierten Frauen mitgeprägt worden ist. Herzlichen Dank, Marie-Laure, für Deine treuen Dienste, und die besten Wünsche – auch nach dem NADEL – für viele weitere reich erfüllte Jahre!

Küngold und Martin Menzi

Martin Menzi war Studienleiter NADEL von 1981 bis 1991.

Nun kannst Du auf eine lange Tätigkeit am NADEL zurückblicken. Viele dieser Jahre – bis zu meiner Pensionierung waren es 17 – haben wir zusammengearbeitet. An diese Zeit erinnere ich mich gerne. Du warst eine sehr liebenswürdige Kollegin, immer bereit zu helfen. Stets konnte ich bei Dir anklopfen bzw.

in Dein Büro eintreten – Deine Tür stand ja in der Regel offen –, wenn ich in irgendeiner Angelegenheit einen Rat benötigte. In bester Erinnerung ist mir auch Deine Grosszügigkeit geblieben. Unsere morgendlichen gemeinsamen Kaffeepausen hast Du mit so manchem feinen Kuchen versüsst. In diesem Sinne gratuliere ich Dir herzlich zu Deinem 25jährigen Dienstjubiläum. Alles Gute – und auf bald!

Monika

Monika Kramer war vom 1.1.1975 bis zum 30.4.2007 am NADEL tätig.

Als Herz und Seele des NADELS verkörperst du diese Institution wie keine zweite Person und schaffst es damit, bei uns Alumni die Identifikation zum NADEL auch nach vielen Jahren weiterhin aufrecht zu erhalten. Dafür gebührt dir unser grosser Dank und Respekt! Für die Zukunft wünsche ich dir von Herzen, dass du weiterhin eine solch positive Person bleibst und freue mich sehr auf weitere Begegnungen in Zürich oder Zuoz.

Chers salüds, Sandro

Sandro Giuliani ist NADEL-Absolvent (Abschluss 2004) und heute Geschäftsleiter der Jacobs Foundation.

nadelAGENDA

Spring Semester 2017

Registration starts: 31 October 2016

- 20.02. – 24.02. Planung und Monitoring von Projekten
- 07.03. – 10.03. Migration: Eine Herausforderung für die IZA
- 20.03. – 24.03. Finanzmanagement und Wirtschaftlichkeit von Entwicklungsprojekten
- 27.03. – 31.03. M4P – Making Markets Work for the Poor
- 11.04. – 13.04. Aktuelle strategische Debatten der IZA
- 24.04. – 28.04. VET between Poverty Alleviation and Economic Development
- 08.05. – 12.05. Food Security
- 16.05. – 19.05. Corporate Responsibility and Development

Fall Semester 2017

Registration starts: May 2017

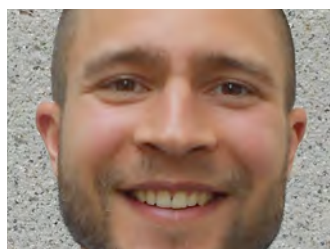
- 18.09. – 22.09. Planung und Monitoring von Projekten (Pflichtmodul)
- 03.10. – 06.10. Urbanization Challenges in the 21st Century – The Role of Development and Cooperation
- 10.10. – 13.10. Evaluation von Projekten
- 30.10. – 03.11. Tools and Techniques for Community Participation
- 06.11. – 10.11. Policy Making: Institutions and Processes
- 21.11. – 24.11. Wirkungsanalysen: Methoden und Anwendungen
- 27.11. – 01.12. Oil, Gas, Minerals: Fueling Development or Undermining the Future?

New at NADEL



Selina Bezzola

is PhD student. Her research focuses on the effect of resource extraction on producer regions. She holds a MA in Comparative and International Studies from ETH. Selina worked for GIZ in Mali on resource governance.



Daniel Langmeier

is studying agricultural sciences at ETH Zurich. He supports NADEL in research, teaching and administration.



Joël Farronato

is PhD student. His research focuses on social health protection. He holds a MA in Economics. Prior to NADEL, he worked for the World Bank in Ivory Coast and for the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO.



Tabea Sampl

is an office manager at NADEL. She is responsible for administration and the support of CAS students and students of continuing education courses.