

Systematic Reviews In International Development: Review Questions

These questions have been initiated by a DFID policy, regional or research team and refined in consultation with potential DFID users.

Review groups may wish to propose a sub-question under these headings.

Wording of questions will be finalized as part of the protocol development process.

Note all reviews MUST be focused on developing countries. Data from other contexts may be included if a strong rationale is provided.

Theme	#	Question
Growth and Investment	1	What is the evidence of the impact of business incubation centres on the creation and use of new technology?
	2	What is the evidence of the relationship between education, skills and growth in low-income countries?
	3	What is the evidence of the impact of financial liberalisation on economic growth in low-income countries?
	4	Under what circumstances do the provision of services by the private and not-for profit sectors improve the health of the poorest?
	5	What is the evidence of the impact on investment rates of implementing the following investment climate reforms: starting a business, protecting investors and enforcing contracts?
	6	Under what circumstances do voucher systems involving the private sector improve the quality, efficiency and use of basic services by poor people?
	7	What is the evidence of the impact of micro-credit on the incomes of poor people?
	8	Does poor people's access to formal banking services raise their incomes?
	9	What is the evidence of the impact of changes in the transparency of infrastructure procurement and delivery on infrastructure quality and costs and also on economic growth and poverty reduction?
	10	How effective has AGOA been at increasing trade from Least Developed Countries (LDCs)? What is the expected impact (on participating countries and the US) of extending DFQF access to the US market to all products from all LDCs?
	11	What is the evidence of the impact of agricultural trade liberalisation on food security in developing countries?
	12	What is the evidence of the impacts of new trade deals on fiscal revenues and job creation in low-income countries? What is the evidence of the impact of donor mechanisms on helping poor countries tackle trade-related adjustment costs?
	13	What is the evidence around the growth impacts of corruption in low-income countries?
Governance	14	How and under what conditions do different forms of democracy contribute to positive development outcomes for the poor, as measured by (i) poverty reduction (ii) MDGs?

	15	What evidence is there of the effectiveness of different approaches to reducing corruption?
	16	What is the evidence of impact of civil service reform on service delivery in fragile states and other low income countries?
	17	What is the evidence of the impact of increasing salaries on improving the performance of public servants, including teachers, nurses and judges?
	18	When do untied development funds to local government help to reduce poverty particularly for the poorest men and women?
	19	When are police reforms effective?
	20	Under what conditions does civil society engagement improve access to justice for poor men, women and children?
Fragile States	21	What is the econometric evidence about the drivers of internal conflict?
	22	What is the evidence of the impact of employment creation on (a) stability and (b) poverty reduction in fragile states?
	23	What is the evidence regarding the appropriate design of the capacity building of centre of government institutions (e.g. PM Office, Cabinet Office) in fragile states and its impact on state building and peace building?
	24	What is the evidence of the impact of rapid privatisation of industrial State-Owned Enterprises in post-conflict countries on diversifying the economy, creating jobs, and promoting stability?
	25	What is the evidence on how foreign direct investment in natural commodities and extractive industries sector can be managed to support stability, peace-building and employment creation in fragile states?
Climate and Environment	26	What is the evidence that scarcity and shocks in renewable natural resources and climate change cause conflict instead of promoting collaboration?
	27	What impact does the provision of separate toilets for girls at schools have on their enrolment and completion of primary and secondary schooling?
	28	What is the evidence about glacier melt across the Himalayas?
	29	What is the evidence of the impact on net carbon sequestration from REDD+ (with a focus on tropical forests)?
Social Development	30	What is the evidence of the impact of benefits of work guarantee schemes on poor women and men as compared with cash transfers?
	31	What is the evidence of the impact of free trade zones on labour opportunities and poverty outcomes for poor women?
	32	What kinds of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are most effective in increasing the voice and agency of marginalised and disadvantaged groups of people in fragile and conflict-affected countries?
	33	Under what conditions are social protection initiatives and systems effective and efficient in reducing poverty and vulnerability?

	34	What is the evidence of the impact on extreme poverty of one-off transfers of productive assets (seeds, cows, sewing machines) directly to targeted poor groups?
	35	What kinds of policy and programme interventions contribute to reductions in maternal mortality?
	36	What is the evidence of the impact on family wellbeing of giving economic resources (e.g. microcredit, cash or asset transfers) to women relative to the impact of giving them to men?
		Also see question 6
Human Development	37	What is the evidence of the impact in the medium-longer term of the abolition of school fees in low income developing countries?
	38	What is the evidence of the impact of vouchers (or other similar subsidies for private education) on access to education for poor people?
	39	What is the evidence on what works to monitor and improve teacher attendance (in classrooms) in developing countries?
	40	What is the evidence that social health insurance schemes in developing country settings can improve health outcomes and reduce the impoverishing effect of healthcare payments for the poorest people?
	41	What is the most effective way of working with non-state providers in post-conflict and fragile states in primary healthcare service delivery?
	42	What is the impact of interventions to increase agricultural production on children's nutritional status?
	43	What are the most effective models of delivery of improved maternal and child health outcomes for poor people in urban areas in LICs?
Agriculture	44	How effective have direct subsidies to agriculture been in relation to increasing agricultural sector growth in Africa?
	45	How effective have financial mechanisms (such as micro-insurance) been in helping small-holders manage weather-related risks?
	46	How effective is the transfer of common property to private ownership, through conferring property right on individuals, in providing more sustainable and pro-poor exploitation of renewable natural resources in the developing world?
Aid Delivery	47	What is the evidence of the impact on MDG 5 outcomes (or other relevant MDGS) of delivering aid in line with Paris and Accra aid effectiveness principles? How does this compare to the evidence of the impact of aid in general on MDG-type outcomes?
	48	What is the track record of Multi Donor Trust Funds in improving of the impact of aid?
	49	What is the evidence that performance-based financing helps to deliver better results as part of a sector budget support programme?