

Research meeting
June 27, 2013

Shallow investigations (Alexander)

- We have 5 currently going. Nuclear Proliferation has gone best so far and is the only one that's done.
- The limiting factor is waiting for experts to respond.
- We have added two more: Technology in Education and Family Planning in the Developing World.
- We hope to have five of the seven done by the end of July

Medium depth investigations (Alexander)

1. Metaresearch
 - a. Open Science prong is done; Holden is going to write it up.
 - b. The "John Ioannidis prong" had led to new project, but our end of it is wrapped up
 - c. Evidence-Based Medicine prong is on hold until a conference this fall.
 - d. Thus Metaresearch is the first medium-depth investigation to be wrapped up.
2. Labor Mobility
 - a. This is about international immigration
 - b. Alexander is starting it now, in part because the shallows move slowly as we wait for people to respond
3. Geoengineering: Looking for a consultant.
4. Malaria: Elie is working on this and didn't give an update.

Politics (Holden)

- We decided to talk to think tanks to understand the state of play of various issues better, since they appear to be part-way between academia and politics.

Service Delivery Indicators Program (Tim)

Good Ventures, with input from GiveWell, is considering co-funding the Service Delivery Indicators Program (SDI) with the World Bank, Hewlett Foundation, and other SDI funders.

Donor relations (Elie)

- Money moved is a major way we measure our success.
- Our donor retention rate is lower than is typical for non-profits receiving contributions. Our understanding is that a reasonable benchmark is ~80% of their \$1,000+ donors return the following year, whereas ours is 55%. We have a 49% return rate for all donors.
- Natalie is implementing changes to donor processing that should help somewhat.
- We also spoke with a board member about other things we could do to improve our donor relations.
- One challenge we face is that many of our users give directly to our top charities, which sometimes reduces our ability to easily and directly contact them.

All research meeting notes available at <http://www.givewell.org/research-meetings>.