Project Influence Report (PIR)

Please answer this form to the best of your knowledge. The IGC is trying to better understand the key factors affecting the impact of research on policy, which requires us to better understand project outcomes.

# General Project Information

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| 1.1 Project title | 1.2 Today’s Date |
| Coping with COVID-19 measures in Informal Settlements | 27/11/2020 |
| 1.3 Name of PI completing this form | 1.4 Project code |
| Britta Augsburg |  |
| 1.5 Names of PIs who worked on this project | |
| Alex Armand, Antonella Bancalari | |

# Updated Project Summary

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| 2.1 Please provide an updated project summary for the IGC website. |
| a) A short set of bullet points covering –   * Main motivation or policy challenge being addressed (15 to 20 words); * Main research focus or approach of the study (15 to 20 words); * Core policy recommendations and/or research findings (max 30 words). |
| One of the most at-risk groups of COVID-19 is thought to be the urban poor, living in overcrowded conditions with very limited access to public (health) infrastructure.  The purpose of the project is to generate data on how slum dwellers are coping with policy responses and recommendations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.  Slum-dwellers are severly restricted in their ability to comply with recommended COVID-19 mitigation strategies, they suffer extreme economic hardships. Knowledge and behaviour can however be shifted through incentivised media campaign delivered by doctors. |
| b) A brief summary of core policy recommendations and research findings stemming from the project and any relevant influence and impact (max 200 words). |
| 1. The description of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is useful information for policymakers to understand the evolving consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on the welfare of the most vulnerable population in LMICs – a population on which exists limited data. In particular, our findings of how, and in particular the low extent to which slum dwellers are able to comply with governments' advise and strict measures provides a warning signal to policymakers, indicating that the implemented measures in response to the pandemic are largely infeasible and economically harmful for this population to follow. One way of improving the current approach would be to consider slums, and not households, the relevant unit for certain aspects of lockdown and social/physical distancing, given issues such as out-of-home shared water facilities.   We further provide evidence of a low cost tool that policy-makers can use to debunk fake-news in these uncertain times. Low-cost voice and video messages plus a lottery offering a financial incentive can be effective ways of communicating doctors’ and other scientists’ advice on how to prevent the spread of the virus. |

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| 2.2 Is this project confidential?  Confidential project summaries are used internally but will not be published on the IGC website. |
| Yes  No |

# Project Updates

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| 3.1a Have you collected new data as part of your project? | | 3.1b If ‘Yes’, please indicate by when you expect to be able to share this data with us? (mm/yyyy) | |
| Yes  No | | We can share data in early 2021, but would like for the data to be published only after publication of the main academic paper(s). | |
| 3.2 Have you collected and/or analysed gender disaggregated data? | | 3.3 Have you considered gender as a specific component in the analysis of your findings? | |
| Yes  No | | Yes  No | |
| 3.4 During dissemination, were specific policy-relevant findings relating to women or girls discussed? | | 3.5a Did you interact with the IGC country office during the course of your project? | |
| Yes  No | | Yes  No  No relevant IGC country office | |
| 3.5b If ‘Yes’, please describe the nature of your interaction with the IGC country office and how useful you found this engagement. | | | |
| We discussed with the India IGC office during the design/proposal submission phase. | | | |
| 3.6a Do you expect to produce an academic paper for submission to a journal as a result of this research? | | | |
| Yes  No | | | |
| 3.6b If ‘Yes’, please indicate when you expect to submit the paper for review (mm/yyyy, approximately). If ‘No’, please detail why the project findings are not suitable for this purpose. | | | |
| Click here to enter a date.  We expect to have a working paper by spring 2021, submitting to a journal after discussion of findings with colleagues, through one-on-one meetings and seminar/conference presentations, if feasible. We aim for journal submission by the summer of 2021. | | | |
| 3.7a Please indicate whether there were any significant changes to the scope of your project from its inception. | | | |
| Yes  No | | | |
| 3.7b If ‘Yes’, please provide details on the reasons behind these changes. | | | |
| 1. During the application process, we were successful with a funding application to the LSE's internal COVID-19 call, suggesting an experiment on fake news in the same context, and on the same population as the planned IGC study. Combining funding from both projects allowed for more efficient implementation and hence a reduction in the IGC budget. We note that the final report submitted covers both projects in view of this. | | | |
| 3.8a Do you expect to undertake further research, linked to these findings? | | | |
| Yes  No | | | |
| 3.8b If ‘Yes’, please provide details on the nature of this follow-up work: i.e. was there specific demand from a policymaker or other stakeholder for additional research? Will the scope of the project expand? Will you develop further research proposals based on your findings/engagement? Please also indicate whether you expect this work to be in collaboration with the IGC. | | | |
| We are in the initial analysis stage of the data but expect to be able to speak to different interesting and policy relevant aspects, not directly covered in the proposal (the blog on willingness to vaccinate that we wrote is one such example of an originally unplanned output). | | | |
| 3.9a Has this project received additional funding from alternative funding sources? | | | |
| Yes  No | | | |
| 3.9b If ‘Yes’, please indicate the funding body, date and amount. If applicable, please also indicate what work this additional funding supported (i.e. full project scope, scale-up, etc.).  If you require more space, please use an additional page. | | | |
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| Funding organisation  LSE  Work supported: | Amount (GBP)  £ 8,750 | | Date approved  15/05/2018 |
| Funding organisation    Work supported: | Amount (GBP)  £ | | Date approved  Click here to enter a date. |
| Funding organisation    Work supported: | Amount (GBP)  £ | | Date approved  Click here to enter a date. |
| Funding organisation    Work supported: | Amount (GBP)  £ | | Date approved  Click here to enter a date. |
| **3.10 Are there are any other actual or potential outputs from the research which may be useful to policymakers or other stakeholders? These may include data visualization tools like heat maps, dashboards or ideas for policy application using your project data and/or findings.** | | | |
| We currently have one additional output (published on two platforms):  IGC Blog and Ideas4India, August 2020, ‘COVID-19 and the willingness to vaccinate: Evidence from India’, https://www.theigc.org/blog/covid-19-and-the-willingness-to-vaccinate-evidence-from-india/; https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/poverty-inequality/covid-19-willingness-to-vaccinate.html  We aim to publish others but are not able to provide details at this stage, given the delays in data collection, which implies that we received final data very close to the end of grant deliverable deadline, and hence focused exclusively on the final report. The extremely limited engagement with stakeholders at the time of submitting this report further reflects this point. | | | |
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# 4. Stakeholder Engagement

In this section, we would like to learn about your relationship(s) with your principal non-academic partner(s) for this project. These are individuals who have an ongoing interest in your research and a stake in the results of your analysis. These key stakeholders are often in government, but may also be actors within donor organisations, firms, civil society groups, NGOs, and similar institutions. Question 4.1 relates exclusively to government stakeholders, while question 4.2 relates to actors in other sectors. In section 6, you will have the opportunity to provide further details on your meetings with these individuals.

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| 4.1a Have you had government counterparts, relevant to your research, over the course of the project and/or when disseminating your findings? |
| Yes  No |
| 4.1b If yes, please provide details on this engagement, particularly with respect to the names, titles and Ministry/organisation of relevant policymakers, specifically those you feel have been most important for your research and dissemination. |
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| 4.1c How many meetings (approximately) did you hold with this counterpart? |
| None 1 – 2  3 – 5  More than 5 |
| 4.1d If none, please detail why your project had no suitable government counterpart. |
| We have not yet reached out to any type of stakeholders (government, donors, NGOs,…) given significant delays in data collection and hence availability of results and policy recommendations. |
| 4.2a Have you had any engagement with stakeholders other than policymakers, such as donors, firms, or NGOs, while completing your project? |
| Yes  No |
| 4.2b If yes, please provide further information about the nature of these other stakeholders, including names of relevant organisations, titles of counterparts within these organisations and the form the engagement took to support the project. |
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# 5. Activities and impact

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| 5.1 As part of this project, which of these activities did you engage in? Please make sure that no more than two activities are listed as primary | |
| 1. Synthesised existing research into new outputs | 1. Did not do |
| 2. Engaged in original research or created new knowledge | 1. Primary |
| 1. 3. Distributed research outputs/ideas to relevant policy stakeholders | 1. Did not do |
| 4. Actively engaged with policy stakeholders to disseminate research findings | 1. Did not do |
| 1. 5. Actively engaged with policy stakeholders to change a specific existing or planned policy | 1. Did not do |
| 1. 6. Collected new data to inform a particular research and/or policy areas | 1. Primary |
| 7. Accessed already existing country-specific datasets for analysis | 1. Did not do |
| 5.2 Which of the following statements describe your research findings? | |
| 1. The research findings could have a large impact on growth by influencing domestic policy | Unknown |
| 2. The research findings could push the research frontier in this thematic area | Unknown |
| 3. The research findings have been disseminated to relevant policymakers | No |
| 4. The policymakers the research findings were disseminated to clearly have the capacity to understand and use the research findings | Not Relevant |
| 5. Stakeholders other than policymakers have shown an interest in the research findings | Yes |
| 6. The research findings fulfilled the demand of the relevant policymakers | Unknown |
| 7. The research findings address a high-ranking priority on the national agenda | Yes |

# 6. Policy and Academic Influence

Please respond to the following statements relating to the policy outcomes (if any) linked to your project:

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| **6.1a My research findings have contributed to a specific policy or policy decision (operational or strategic).** |
| Yes  Not yet, but I anticipate changes in the near future  No |
| **6.1b If 'Yes', please describe these changes and detail how you believe your research may have contributed to the policy or policy decision, providing details of the specific policy or decision. Note: here we are keen to know if the research contributed to the policy change (i.e. we are not trying to assign pure attribution.)** |
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| **6.2a The findings, interim or otherwise, have been disseminated and discussed with relevant policymakers or other key stakeholders.** |
| Yes  Not yet, but I expect dissemination and/or discussion in the near future  No |
| **6.2b If 'Yes', please detail when and where these discussions took place, attendees, and any feedback from the discussions. Include the date (mm/yyyy) of the discussions. You may refer to your answers in section 4, where relevant.** |
| Date and detail of discussion: Click here to enter a date.    Date and detail of discussion: Click here to enter a date.    Date and detail of discussion: Click here to enter a date.    Date and detail of discussion: Click here to enter a date.    Date and detail of discussion: Click here to enter a date. |
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| **6.3a Specific policy stakeholders have expressed interest in getting more evidence in my research area following my engagement.** |
| Yes  Not yet, but I expect interest in the near future  No |
| **6.3b If 'Yes', please detail what interest has been expressed and whether you intend to undertake follow-up work to satisfy this demand.** |
| IGC asked us to present at the bi-monthly evidence sessions with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.  Ella Spencer indicated that the UK Cabinet Office would be interested in the fake news component of the study and kindly volunteered to facilitate engagement with them. |
| **6.4 Please detail any dissemination activities undertaken with any other stakeholders (e.g. International Organisations, Media)** |
| We discussed our research design and preliminary results with academics in one-on-one meetings and with participants of the LSE Development Econmics workshop as well as an internal IFS seminar. Specific people include Dean Karlan, Oriana Bandiera, Michael Callen, Robin Burgess, Gharad Bryan. |
| **6.5 Please detail how your project findings link to economic growth. Additionally, the IGC occasionally selects projects which have had policy traction to consider the impact of policy outcomes. Do you think your project might be suitable for these purposes?** |
| Not at this stage. |
| **6.6a Have the research findings been disseminated to researchers or academic audiences?** |
| Yes  Not yet, but I anticipate academic dissemination in the near future  No |
| **6.6b If 'Yes', please detail when, where, and in what format this dissemination took place, attendees, and any feedback from the discussions. Include the date (mm/yyyy) where appropriate.** |
| Click here to enter a date.  01 April 2020 - LSE Development Economics workshop, presenting project design  Click here to enter a date.  07 May 2020 - IFS Development Seminar, presenting the project design  Click here to enter a date.  23 July 2020 -- IFS research breakfast, presenting design and preliminary baseline findings  Click here to enter a date.  25 August 2020 - Internal IFS workshop for summer students, baseline results  Click here to enter a date. |

**Many thanks for your time,**

**The IGC Team**