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Why funding research is not enough

'Don't just tell me what to do, come and help me do it!' said an Indian government official to a researcher bearing results from studies into effective aid programmes. His response is salutary: there is much work now on increasing the use of evidence in public policy, so we need to understand what policymakers actually need and want, and what will help them be more evidence-driven. For foundations there is a clear message: it isn't enough just to fund research. You have to make sure it reaches the relevant policymakers and in a form that is useful to them.

December 01, 2013