

Roundtable on Development Impact

From Expectations to Evidence: Insights from an Eight-Year Research Partnership

5 November 2026 | 14:00 – 17:00 | Followed by a Development Impact Happy Hour
Venue: Hochschulstrasse 4, Room 205, 3012 Bern

14:00 – 14:05	Welcome address	Aymo Brunetti, UniBe
14:05 – 14:15	Collaboration with academia: Helvetas experiences with impact assessments	Kai Schrader, Helvetas
14:15 – 14:35	SITT: School-based in-service teacher training in Tanzania	Donatian Marusu, Helvetas
14:35 – 14:55	Three iterative experiments on the impact and scalability of SITT	Lukas Hauck, UniBe
14:55 – 15:10	Questions from the audience	
15:10 – 15:35	**Coffee break**	
15:35 – 16:50	**Credible, feasible, useful: What makes impact evidence count?** Panel discussion incl. Q&A from the audience	**Facilitator:** Candice Morkel (IPDET) **Panel:** Nicola Malacarne (SECO), Isabel Günther (ETH NADEL) and Sebastian Schuster (Welthungerhilfe)
16:50 – 17:00	Closing Remarks	Martin Fischler, Helvetas
17:00 – 19:00	**Development impact happy hour (Apéro)**	Hosted by the University of Bern and Helvetas, as an edition of the *Development Impact Happy Hour* series of the UZH Center for Economic Development

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Speakers and Panelists

Aymo Brunetti (Prof. Dr.) is Full Professor of Economics at the University of Bern and served as Managing Director of the Department of Economics from 2014 to 2024. From 2003 to 2012 he headed the Economic Policy Directorate of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). He has worked as a consultant for the World Bank, the OECD and the IFC. In recent years, he has co-authored randomized field experiments in El Salvador and Tanzania evaluating in-service teacher training programs. He is a member of the Assembly of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Title: Professor of Economics, University of Bern

Kai Schrader (PhD) is Helvetas' Sr Advisor for Evaluation & Learning implementing and commissioning impact evaluations since 1995. His focus is on quality assurance for a broad variety of evaluation methodologies and learning from project's M&E systems, guiding and training staff and partners. **Title:** Sr Advisor Evaluation & Learning, Helvetas,

Donatian Marusu is Program Manager of the School-Based In-Service Teacher Training (SITT) program at Helvetas Tanzania, where he has overseen its implementation in more than 1,000 primary schools. For eight years, he has been the field counterpart of the research partnership with the University of Bern, coordinating three randomized controlled trials with government education offices and teacher colleges. **Title**: SITT Program Manager, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Tanzania

Lukas Hauck (PhD) is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Economics of the University of Bern and Principal Investigator of the ongoing three-arm randomized controlled trial in 300 Tanzanian schools funded by the Regional Teachers Initiative for Africa. His research in development economics focuses on the effectiveness and scalability of teacher training, with field experiments in Tanzania conducted in partnership with Helvetas since 2021. **Title**: Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Economics, University of Bern

Candice Morkel (PhD) is an evaluation leader with almost 30 years of experience, with a focus on advancing national evaluation systems. She has commissioned and led, amongst others, impact evaluations, the co-production of national impact evaluation guidelines, global and local capacity development programs in impact evaluation and publishes regularly on evaluation capacity, equity and public policy. **Title:** Academic Head of Program, IPDET, University of Bern

Isabel Günther (Prof Dr.) leads the Development Economics research group at ETH Zürich. She is founder and chair of ETH for Development (ETH4D) and has served as President of the Swiss Alliance for Global Research Partnerships (SCNAT) since 2024. Her research focuses on poverty and inequality, health and population economics, development finance, and the effectiveness of development policies and cooperation. **Title**: Associate Professor of Development Economics, ETH Zürich and Academic Director of NADEL

Nicola Malacarne (MA, MBA) is an evaluation specialist with expertise in impact evaluation, quality assurance and evidence synthesis. He has commissioned and conducted impact evaluations using diverse methodologies, particularly theory-based approaches. His work also supports evidence-informed decision-making. He previously held programme and evaluation roles at Caritas Switzerland, the Swiss Red Cross and Interaction Switzerland, and also works as an independent evaluator. **Title**: Senior Evaluation Advisor, SECO Economic Cooperation and Development.

Sebastian Schuster (Dipl.-Volksw.) is an experienced monitoring, evaluation and development professional who has served at Welthungerhilfe since 2023. Previously, he held several positions at Don Bosco Mondo, including Sustainability Advisor, Evaluation and Quality Management Specialist, and Project Manager, building extensive expertise in programme quality, sustainability and results measurement. **Title:** Team Lead Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL), Welthungerhilfe.

Martin Fischler (PhD) is a Senior Advisor Sustainable Agriculture & Extension who joined Helvetas in 1997 as an advisor for rural development projects in Central America and Bolivia. Since 2005, he has served as Programme Coordinator for Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Tanzania and Mozambique) and Senior Advisor focusing on food security, natural resource management, rural advisory services, impact assessments and post-harvest loss reduction.