Contact: Eva Vivalt
202-630-6763
evivalt@aidgrade.org

For Immediate Release

New App for Effective Altruism Released
AidGrade's new tool helps the public understand latest research results in international development

November 7, 2013 — AidGrade, a research institute dedicated to discovering what works in international development, has just released a much-expanded version of its meta-analysis app which allows people to download and analyze results of individual studies.

Meta-analysis combines findings from academic studies in a statistically sound way. It is to be contrasted with "vote counting", which simply tallies how many studies found positive or negative effects and can be misleading.

AidGrade previously released an app that allowed people to conduct their own meta-analyses online. AidGrade simultaneously built a database of impact evaluation results from academic studies, such as those produced by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, at MIT; Innovations for Poverty Action, based around Yale; and the Center for Effective Global Action, at the University of California, Berkeley, among others. More than 5,000 results from 300 papers have now been coded and are coming online.

"It's awesome to see these results," enthused Eva Vivalt, founder of the project and post-doctoral fellow at New York University. "You hear so much in the media about 'this study says this' or 'this study says that', but each academic paper only gives a small part of the story. We need to look at the aggregate results, but in a way that makes sense. Economics isn't like other disciplines where results can be easily replicated across contexts. We need to measure and model the context-dependence to know what to do."

The new meta-analysis tool breaks the data down by study to allow for more specialized analysis. Data and meta-analysis results can be downloaded and shared.

About AidGrade

AidGrade improves the effectiveness of development efforts by understanding and encouraging what works using rigorous, actionable and engaging evidence. Its research empowers donors to make an educated choice when giving to aid programs. Visit aidgrade.org to learn more.

###

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please e-mail Eva Vivalt at evivalt@aidgrade.org.