



Social Protection

Introduction & Evidence Review



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Our Strategic Ambition



1. Create Stronger Evidence

To deepen knowledge of how to reduce poverty



2. Share Evidence Strategically

To influence conversations and inform decisions

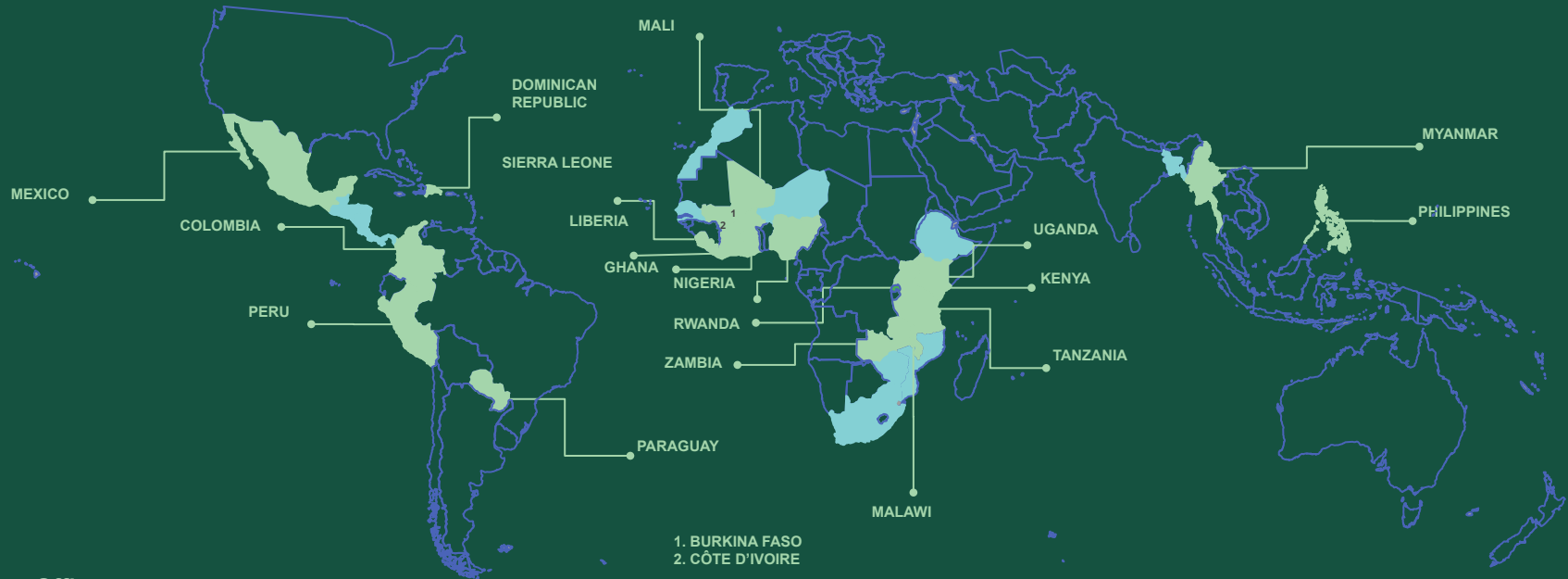


3. Equip Decision-Makers to Use Evidence

To improve the lives of the global poor

IPA in 2024

IPA has 20 country offices and projects in 30+ countries



- Country Offices
- Country Projects



IPA Nigeria

Nigeria



A customer at Bodija market, Ibadan, Nigeria. © 2019 Femi Komolafe on Shutterstock

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a global research and policy nonprofit that discovers and advances what works to improve the lives of people living in poverty. IPA tests promising ideas across contexts and along the path to scale, proactively engages key decision-makers throughout the research process, shares findings with the right people at the right time, and equips partners with the skills and tools they need to use data and evidence. Since our founding in 2002, we have worked with over 600 leading academics to conduct more than 900 evaluations in 52 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact hundreds of millions of lives worldwide.

More Evidence

Founded in 2019, IPA Nigeria develops applicable research by building foundational research capacity and conducting evaluations in areas of pressing national concern. Examples of our work below offer promising insights into critical issues that affect the livelihoods of people experiencing poverty.

PEACE & RECOVERY

Contact between farmers and herders (mainly through inter-dialogues) has the potential to reduce the incidence of violent conflicts.

RESEARCHERS: OJINDHILA DUBE, SOEREN J. HEIN, JAMES ROBINSON

Researchers partnered with the NGO, Search for Common Ground (SCFG) and IPA Nigeria to implement a randomized evaluation of an intervention that encourages contact between farmers and herders in the Middle Belt of Nigeria. The goal will be to discern both whether, and how, this contact can reduce the incidence of violent conflicts. Further, given the prevalence of bargaining challenges inherent to a wide range of

conflicts, the findings could be broadly generalizable to instability and conflict outside of the Nigerian context.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Evidence suggests socio-emotional skills can improve business outcomes and help close the gender gap in earnings between male and female small agribusiness owners.

RESEARCHERS: AYODELE FASHOGRON, CLARA DELAVALLADE, SREELAKSHMI PAPINENI

The World Bank Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) and IPA Nigeria partnered with the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to evaluate the impact of the Women and Youth Empowerment program (WYEP) within the Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement, and Livelihood Improvement Support (APPEALS) project. The evaluation will shed light on the impact of socio-emotional skills training

IPA NIGERIA Since 2019

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Education, Entrepreneurship & Private Sector Development, Financial Inclusion, Health, Human Trafficking, Peace & Recovery, Social Protection

RESEARCH STUDIES

14 ongoing, 3 completed

KEY PARTNERS

Bank of Industry, BRAC International, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Ehsath, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education, Global Development Incubator (GDI), National Agency for the Prohibiting of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Save the Children, ThinkMD, World Bank

KEY RESEARCHER

AFFILIATIONS

Arizona State University, Newcastle University Business School, RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, University of Chicago, University of Hong Kong, University of Michigan, World Bank, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Mission: Social Protection (SP) Program

The mission of the SP sector is to help countries **identify** and **implement** the most **effective poverty reduction program** that they can afford, given their financial and political contexts. We take on research projects where we believe that we can make the biggest contribution to policy by generating novel evidence, and which build on our strong track record of previous social protection studies.



What is Social Protection?

- Social protection refers to a wide variety of programs that help poor and vulnerable people **cope with crises and shocks, find jobs, invest in the health and education** of their children, and **protect aging populations**.
- It serves to both **improve** the lives of people experiencing chronic poverty and **prevent** people from falling into chronic poverty



Social Protection Instruments



**Cash or in-kind
transfers**

**School feeding
programs**

Public works

**Active labor
market
programs**

**Social
insurance or
pensions**

**Maternity
benefits**

**Disability
benefits**

**Unemployment
benefits**

Challenges implementing social protection

- All SP systems face challenges with program financing, design, and delivery
- Low- and middle-income countries in particular face these challenges and more
 - **Limited fiscal space** due to lower tax collection to GDP ratios, as well as constraints to borrow
 - Challenges with **targeting** given large informal sector, limited information
 - Challenges with **delivery** given weaker institutions, incomplete markets (e.g., insurance markets, labor markets)



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Cash Transfers

Cash & Vouchers for Poverty Reduction

- A review of food aid programs in 10 low-income countries found that they **reliably improved nutrition**, and **may have reduced poverty** for beneficiaries (Gentilini 2016)
- Food vouchers (i.e. food stamps) have similar impacts, and can be **distributed at a lower cost** compared to direct food aid (Hidrobo et al. 2013)
- Food aid and vouchers are efficient when food is **available at local markets**, but food aid is preferable if markets aren't working well
- There is **little evidence** that food aid or vouchers are resold or used to purchase temptation goods like alcohol (ibid., Evans & Popova 2014)

Even More Evidence on Cash

- Cash transfers generally **reduce rates of intimate partner violence** (Buller et al. 2018)
- Positive effects are found **for both conditional and unconditional cash transfers**, although CCTs tend to have larger impacts on their conditions (like housing or healthcare usage) (Akresh et al. 2016, Baird et al. 2013)
- A review of 19 studies of cash transfers found that the programs **did not increase spending on temptation goods** such as alcohol and cigarettes (Evans & Popova 2014)
- **Caveat #1:** most cash transfer programs offer **small, consistent transfers**, and recipients generally **do not experience transformations in their overall level of poverty** after the programs end
- **Caveat #2:** quality of targeting & enrollment varies widely; most SP programs include some **poor individuals and exclude many more**

Design and Delivery Considerations

Amount

- **Higher value transfers can have greater impact** on consumption, savings, investment, and specific health and nutrition outcomes when provided as a one-time payment or as cumulative benefits over a fixed time span.

- **Higher relative value transfers produce stronger impacts on economic indicators** such as investment as well as consumption and food security.

- **Cash transfers encourage choice.** Transfer values do not necessarily discourage work but offer the possibility of substituting wage work for care, self-employment, and education for children who are no longer engaged in child labor.

- **Impact of high-value transfers varies by gender** in some instances, as well as between working-age adults. There are potentially negative effects on abuse, empowerment and safe sex, depending on demographic characteristics.

Duration

- **Impact varies based on duration.** Cash distributed over a long period (+24 months) provides predictability associated with greater impact, particularly for those intended to improve children's health, nutrition and education, employment and labor.
- **Longer duration can increase risk tolerance** by allowing households to plan for the future, release inhibitions for investments and engage in riskier yet profitable income-generating activities, where available.
- **UBI can benefit children** especially when timed to pivotal development periods (e.g., the first 1,000 days).

Frequency

- **Frequency is not a key driver of impact** on outcomes such as health, nutrition and food security, savings and investments, education, gender based or intimate partner violence.
- **Frequency and amount may have gender impacts** such as women's ability to control cash, but more rigorous evidence is needed.
- **One-time transfer may be preferable** for policymakers and implementers given lower costs and greater ease of implementation.

Modality

- **Cash transfers appear to be more effective** than in-kind transfers or vouchers for improving a range of outcomes including monetary poverty, health, food and nutrition security, across various contexts
- **In-kind transfers are more costly** than cash, which may limit their potential for scale
- **More evidence is needed** as most studies focus on food security and nutrition outcomes. Evidence for other outcomes is missing.

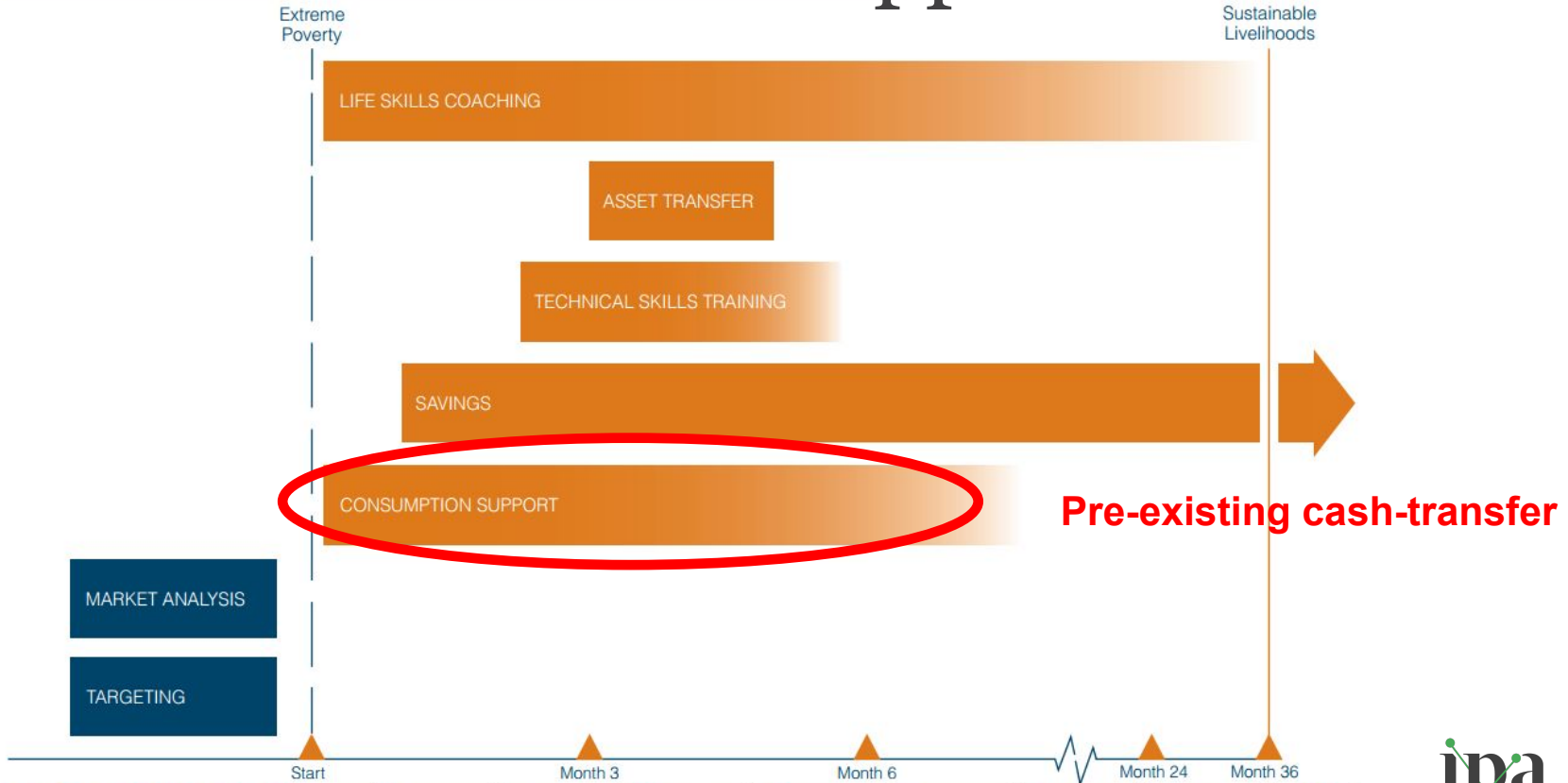
Payment Mechanisms

- **Mechanisms can produce differential impacts** on recipients' use of cash and welfare indicators, including consumption and food security, gender equity and empowerment, and financial inclusion.
- **Digital transfers are potentially cost-effective** and can reduce transaction costs both for implementers and households and provide gateway to financial services.
- **Ecosystem and infrastructure matter** including payment costs, leakage, mobile coverage, saturation, digital literacy, gender barriers to access to mobiles, ID, bank accounts, etc.

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Graduation Programs

The Graduation Approach



Source: CGAP

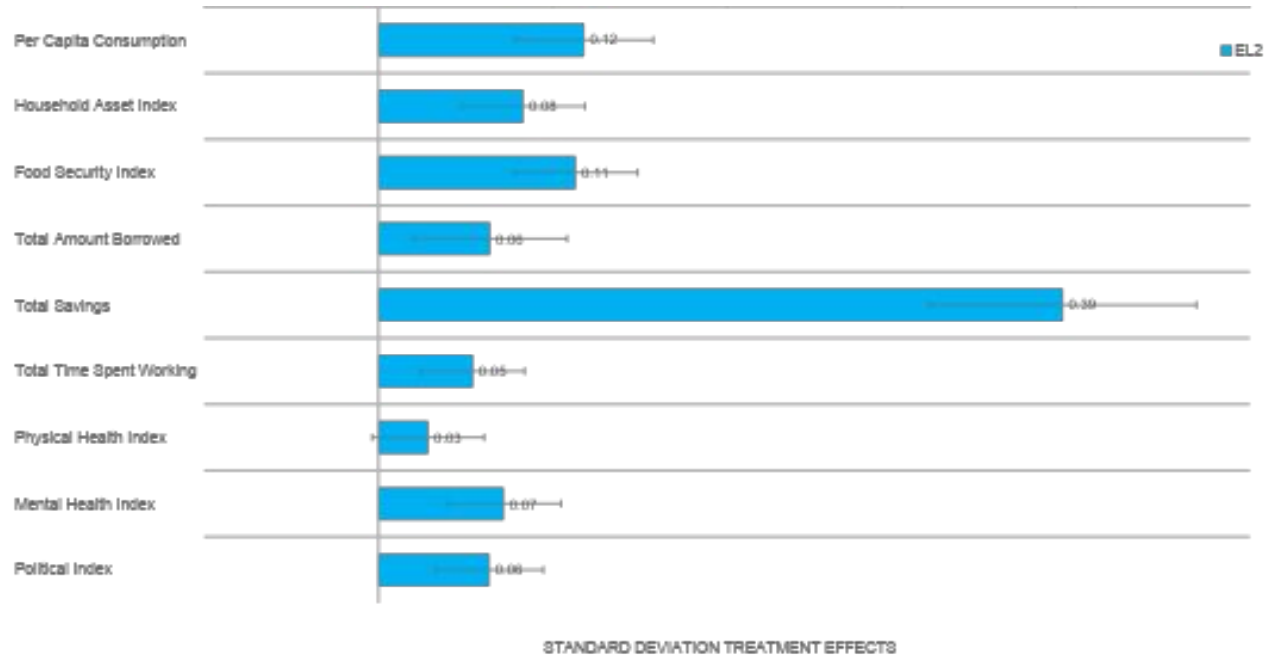
Six Country Replication (2007 – 2014)



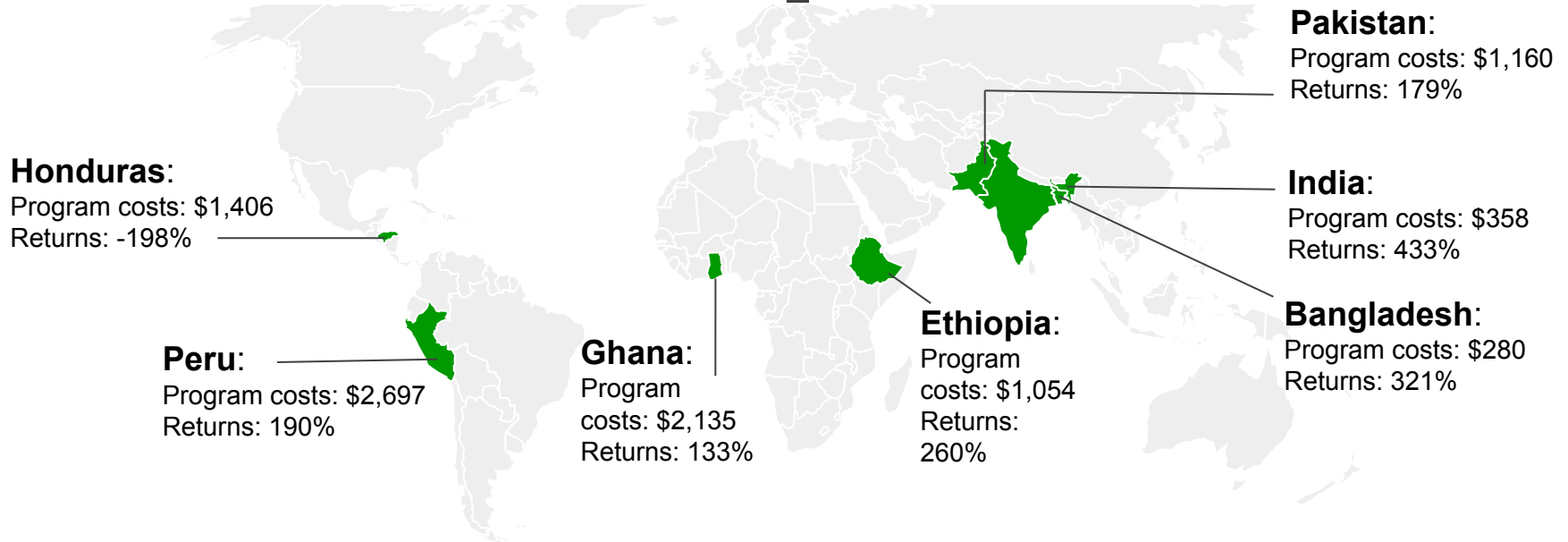
Original Program Effects After 3 Years

Statistically significant impacts in **8 out of 10 key outcomes after 3 years**

Strong positive impacts sustained over time **despite differences in contexts**, cultures, market access and structures, subsistence activities, and implementing organizations.



Graduation is Cost Effective... But Expensive



Long-Term Impacts

Bangladesh, West Bengal, India, Ethiopia

Bangladesh (*BRAC*)

- This study measured outcomes **11 years** after the program ended (Balboni et al. 2020)
- Lasting escape from poverty was more likely when families could accumulate larger productive assets, like cows, rather than small ones like goats

India (*Bandhan*)

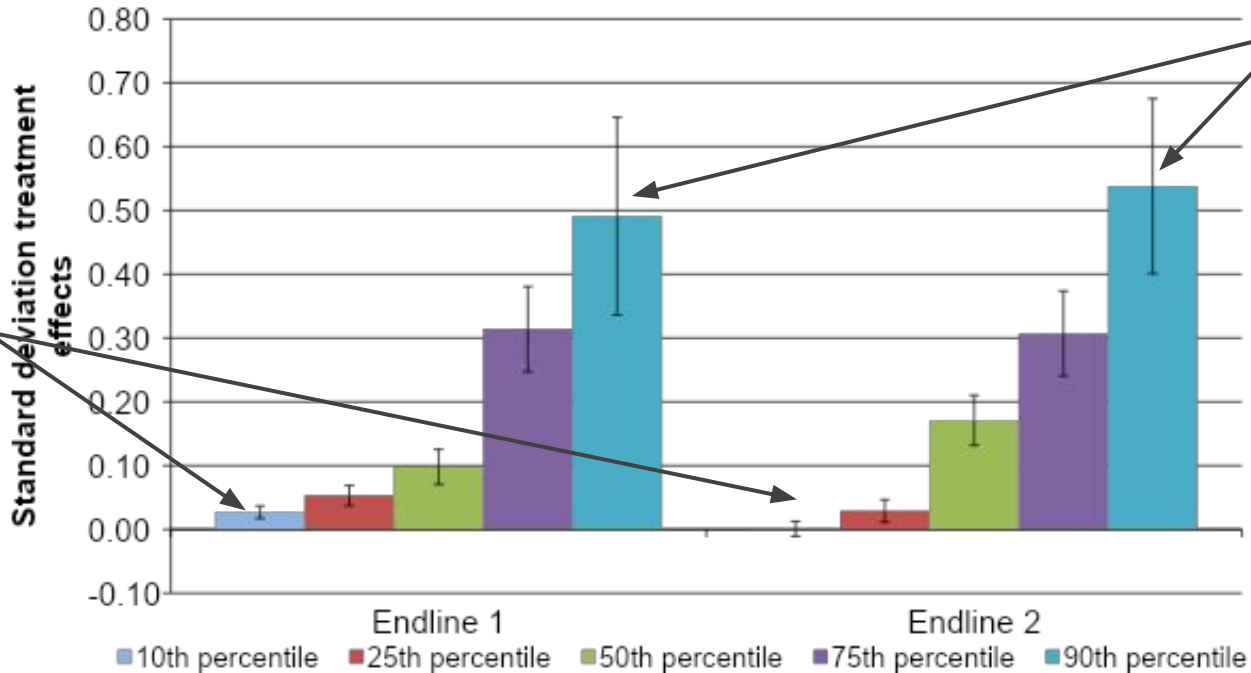
- This study follows households over **10 years** (Banerjee et al. 2020B)
- Effects on incomes, food security, physical and mental health grow for the first seven years following the transfer and persist until year 10
- Treated households take better advantage of opportunities to diversify into more lucrative wage employment, especially through migration

Ethiopia (*Relief Society of Tigray*)

- Consumption and assets are still higher than the control group, but the difference is getting smaller
- No impact on income or food security by **year 7** (Banerjee et al. 2020A)

Graduation works but some still struggle

Quantiles: Income and Revenues



How can we design programs such that these people benefit?

The program had large positive impacts on some



Using Research to Take Graduation to Scale

What Can We Reduce?

- **Ghana Graduating from Ultra-Poverty (GUP) Goat Drops**
- **Uganda Village Enterprise Lower-Cost Graduation**
- **Kenya BOMA Lower-Cost Graduation**
- **Uganda AVSI Graduating to Resilience Group Coaching/No assets**



What Can We Add?

Psychosocial

- **Malawi Concern - Gender Sensitive Graduation**
Couples training
- **Sahel Adaptive Social Protection** Psychosocial support and community-based gender training
- **Ghana Escaping Poverty** Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- **DRC Women for Women International** Men's Engagement Program

Climate and Environment

- **Kenya BOMA** Green graduation (in progress but a promising approach)



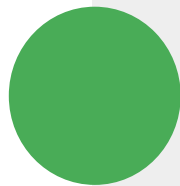
Photo: ASP

Open Questions



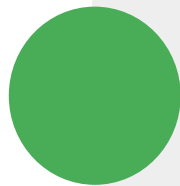
How can this be done **more cheaply**?

How much of each component is needed?



What **add-ons** can boost impacts?

Mental health, gender training, etc?



Technology:
Can digital delivery reduce costs and/or improve quality?



How do we **design for scale**?

Lower cost/simpler to deliver?



Who benefits the most, why?

What can be done to improve impacts for others?



What **new target populations** could benefit?

Urban, Humanitarian settings?



Thank you for your attention!

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