

## **Authors**

Abhijit Banerjee Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Esther Duflo

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Nathanael Goldberg

Senior Director, Sector Programs

Dean Karlan

Northwestern University

Robert Osei

Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana

William Parienté

Université Catholique de Louvain

Jeremy Shapiro

Busara Center for Behavioral Economics

Bram Thuysbaert

**Dutch Development Bank** 

Christopher Udry Northwestern University

BULLETIN

POLICY BULLETIN [ SEPTEMBER 2015]





## BUILDING STABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR THE ULTRA-POOR

A multifaceted livelihood program that provided ultra-poor households with a productive asset, training, regular coaching, access to savings, and consumption support led to large and lasting impacts on their standard of living across a diverse set of contexts and implementing gartners.



## Key Results of the Graduation Approach:

A balistic livelihood program targeted at the ultra-poor helped them shift into more stable self-employment that increased their standard of living both two-poars after the product be asset transfer, and three years after the asset transfer—a year or more after all program activities ended.

The Craduation approach caused broad and lasting economic impacts. Pooled data from six sites show Graduation households' consumption increased 5.5 percent relative to the comparison group two-years after the asset transfer. Craduation households' consumption increased 7.5 percent in Bungladesh, rifs, a percent in Ethiopia, 6.6 present in Chana, 16 percent in India, and no. a percent in Palsition elative to the comparison group, though there was no impact on consumption in Henduleas or Press, Households operienced similar improvements in food security, asset holdings, and savings. Most positive impacts on participating households were consistent three years after the asset transfer—one year after all program activities ended.

The improvements in well-being were mostly the result of increases in self-employment income. Injecting a combination of productive assets and relocate skills training led to an increase in basic entrepreneurial activities, primarily concentrated on isomock and activities like petry teads.

Graduation led to some improvements in psychosocial well-being. Happiness, stress, women's empowement, and some measures of physical health and political engagement improved for participants at some sites. The effects on women's empowerment and physical health were no longer statistically significant one year after all programs activities ended.

These effects were consistent across multiple contents and implementing partners. The program's positive results on oconomic well-being, which target from very conomically significant to enderately so, are not driven by any one country.





## **Building Stable Livelihoods for the Ultra Poor**

A multifaceted livelihood program that provided ultra-poor households with a productive asset, training, regular coaching, access to savings, and consumption support led to large and lasting impacts on their standard of living across a diverse set of contexts and implementing partners.

September 08, 2015