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SOCIAL PROTECTION | RESULTS BRIEF

**The Impact of a Nutrition-Focused Livelihoods Program on Child Health and Nutrition in Burkina Faso**

Almost half of all deaths of children under five years of age are attributable to malnutrition, and despite the decline in numbers, progress continues to be very slow. Malnutrition and under-nutrition, in particular, affect mainly households living in poverty. Recent research has shown that holistic livelihood programs can have a wide range of benefits for these poor families, from increasing household consumption and income to improving food security and mental health. This evaluation measured the impact of a multifaceted program on nutritional status, productive assets, and income. The program adapts the graduation approach, which combines a comprehensive set of interventions to enable ultra-poor households to develop sustainable livelihoods and resilience. It features a cash unconditional transfer, a productive investment (livestock or seeds), and a nutrition component (distribution of fortified flour), and nutrition education.

**Key Findings**

- The program **reduced chronic malnutrition** among children under five by about a third. This impact is driven by a 22 percent decrease in food insecurity compared to the comparison group.
- The program increased the number of plots, the size of productive land, and the value of productive assets. These results suggest that the program had a **multiplicative effect on household outcomes**: they invested more in both the nutrition of their young children and in their productive assets to improve future welfare.
- The results in both nutrition and productive assets were only significant when the full version of the program was implemented: **cash transfers + productive asset + nutrition component**.

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COUNTRY
Burkina Faso

IPA STAFF
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TIMELINE
2017-2020

SAMPLE
168 villages

TYPE OF STUDY
Randomized controlled trial (RCT)

# The Impact of a Nutrition-Focused Livelihoods Program on Child Health and Nutrition in Burkina Faso (Endline Survey)

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and despite the decline in numbers, progress continues to be very slow. Malnutrition and under-nutrition, in particular, affect mainly households living in poverty. Recent research has shown that holistic livelihood programs can have a wide range of benefits for these poor families, from increasing household consumption and income to improving food security and mental health. This evaluation measured the impact of a multifaceted program on nutritional status, productive assets, and income. The program adapts the graduation approach, which combines a comprehensive set of interventions to enable ultra-poor households to develop sustainable livelihoods and resilience. It features a cash unconditional transfer, a productive investment (livestock or seeds), and a nutrition component (distribution of fortified flour), and nutrition education.

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