

Authors

Craig McIntosh
University of California, San Diego

Andrew Zeitlin
Georgetown University

SOCIAL PROTECTION | RESULTS BRIEF

MAY 2022

Are Training Programs Better Than Cash Transfers At Improving The Lives Of Poor And Underemployed Young People? Evidence From Rwanda



Finding effective measures to integrate young people into productive adult life is crucial, especially given Africa's growing youth population. However, the evidence surrounding various policy alternatives is mixed, and there is no clarity on the long-term impact and cost-effectiveness of the various alternatives. In Rwanda, researchers conducted a cash benchmarking evaluation, — a direct comparison of in-kind to cash transfer programs — of a workforce readiness and skills training program called Huguka Dukore.

Key Findings

- Both the Huguka Dukore program and cash transfers had a positive impact in the short and long term. However, the long-term effects faded by almost half compared to the short term.
- In both the short and long term, the Huguka Dukore program had a positive impact on the number of hours spent on productive activities, productive assets owned and business knowledge. In addition, the Huguka Dukore program had a positive impact on subjective well-being and savings in the short term.
- In both the short and long term, cash transfers had a positive impact on productive assets, livestock values, savings, and subjective well-being. Furthermore, transfers increased monthly income and per capita consumption in the short term.
- Due to fading impacts, the Huguka Dukore program and cost-equivalent cash transfers have statistically indistinguishable impacts in the long term. However, the evidence shows that cash had greater benefits in the short term, especially in terms of income, consumption, and subjective well-being.

RESEARCHERS

Craig McIntosh and Andrew Zeitlin

PARTNERS

United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Global Access, Education Development Center, Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA)

COUNTRY

Rwanda

SAMPLE

1,688 underemployed youth

TOPICS

Cash Transfers, Human Capital & Skills, Training & Mentoring, Vocational Training, Youth

STUDY TYPE

Randomized Evaluation

IPA STAFF

Geoffrey Mbarika and Melissa Mahoro

TIMELINE

2017-2021

Are Training Programs Better Than Cash Transfers At Improving The Lives Of Poor And Underemployed Young People? Evidence From Rwanda

Finding effective measures to integrate young people into productive adult life is crucial, especially given Africa's growing youth population. However, the evidence surrounding various policy alternatives is mixed, and there is no clarity on the long-term impact and cost-effectiveness of the various alternatives. In Rwanda, researchers conducted a cash benchmarking evaluation, — a direct comparison of in-kind to cash transfer programs — of a

workforce readiness and skills training program called Huguka Dukore.

May 12, 2022