

IPA Ghana

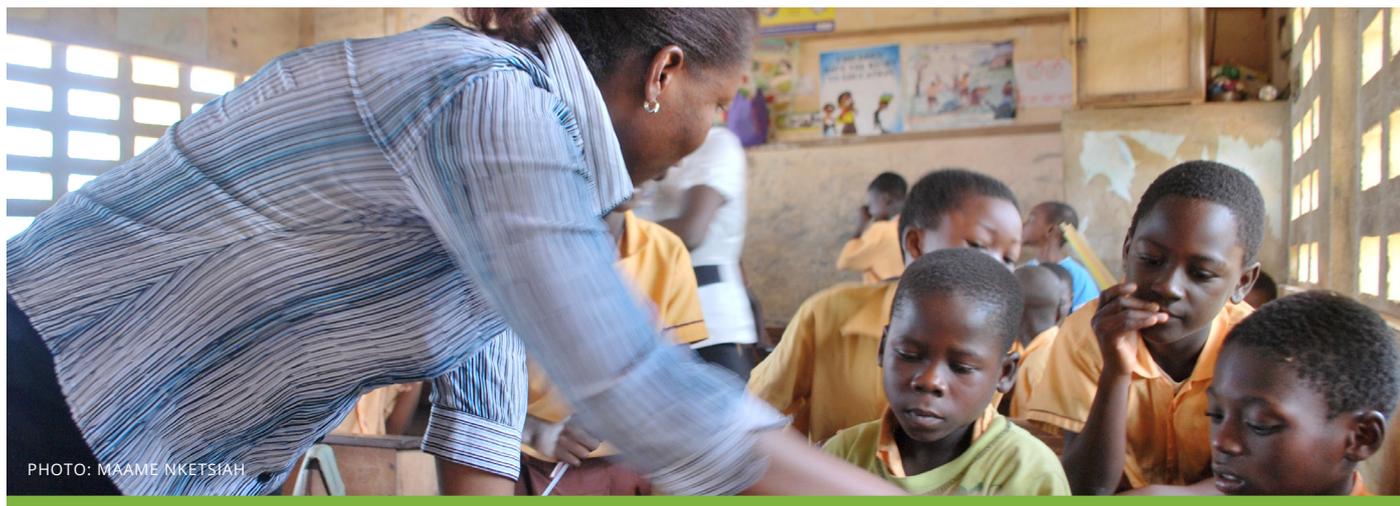


PHOTO: MAAME NKETSIAH

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. We design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications together with decision-makers to ensure that the evidence created is used to improve opportunities for the world's poor. Since our founding in 2002, we have worked with over 600 leading academics to conduct over 830 evaluations in 51 countries. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries such as Ghana where we have local and international staff, established relationships with government, NGOs, and the private sector, and deep knowledge of local issues.

More Evidence

In Ghana, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, 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 everyday issues that affect the lives of the Ghanaian poor.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

The Graduation Model transitioned ultra poor households out of extreme poverty.

Researchers: Abhijit Banerjee, Dean Karlan, Robert Osei, Bram Thuysbaert, Christopher Udry

The Graduation Model is a holistic set of services, including livelihood trainings, productive asset transfers, consumption support, savings plans, and life-coaching, aimed at moving chronically poor households from extreme poverty into self-sufficiency. The approach was rigorously tested in Ghana and in five other countries and found to increase consumption, savings, income from livestock, and life satisfaction. In Ghana, simply giving households a productive asset did not have a similar impact, suggesting other components are needed to make the program work.

EDUCATION

Targeted instruction improved learning for low-performing students.

Researchers: Annie Duflo, Adrienne Lucas, Jessica Kiessel

Based on a similar program developed by the NGO Pratham in India, the Teacher Community Assistant Initiative (TCAI) targeted instruction at the level of the child through the use of local teaching assistants. The Government of Ghana, with support from IPA, completed a pilot of the model which reached 25,000 students. An evaluation found that the program improved pupils' basic skills in numeracy and literacy. The government is now conducting a follow-up study to explore ways to improve implementation with stronger monitoring.

AGRICULTURE

Rainfall insurance and agricultural extension improved farming practices, but had limited effects on farmer welfare.

Researchers: Mathias Fosu, Dean Karlan, Shashidhara Kolavalli, Christopher Udry

Building on previous evidence, researchers evaluated the impact of

IPA GHANA

Since 2008

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Education, Health, Small & Medium Enterprises, Social Protection, Environment, Child Protection, Governance

RESEARCH PROJECTS

41 Completed, 26 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS

Ghana Education Service (GES), Ministry of Education, Ghana Health Service (GHS), Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI), Presbyterian Agricultural Services, UNICEF, World Bank, Heifer International, Varkey Foundation, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Farmerline

KEY RESEARCHERS

Pascaline Dupas (Stanford University), Dean Karlan (Northwestern University), Robert Osei (University of Ghana), Christopher Udry (Northwestern University), Sharon Wolf (University of Pennsylvania), Günther Fink (Harvard School of Public Health)

access to rainfall insurance either coupled with or compared to tailored extension advice, weather forecasts, and improved access to inputs. The study found no evidence that access to the commercially-available rainfall insurance in Ghana changed input choices on farms. Further, overall demand for rainfall insurance was low. Some evidence suggests an underlying problem may be poor-quality seeds, and follow-up research investigating this question is currently underway.

Better Programs & Policies

IPA evidence has already contributed to improving millions of lives. Now, with 16 years of evidence to build on, our programs are increasingly focusing on government and partner collaboration to translate evidence into better programs and policies.

POLICY AND RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

In 2014, IPA partnered with the Ghana Education Service, the National Nursery Teacher Training Center, and leading academic experts to develop a scalable and affordable early childhood teacher training model to improve the quality of early childhood education in Ghana. The resulting program, Quality Preschool for Ghana (QP4G), improved the quality of pre-primary teachers' instruction, children's "school readiness" skills, and decreased teacher burnout. In response to these findings and to interest from policymakers, researchers are adapting the teacher training program to rural communities in Ghana, where poverty levels are higher and teachers are less likely to have received formal training.

EMBEDDED EVIDENCE CAPACITY

IPA is partnering with the Ministry of Education to provide embedded technical support to strengthen the ministry's internal monitoring, evaluation, and research capacity. This technical support will further equip government officials to make evidence-informed education policymaking, leveraging administrative data to test and incorporate learning into new programs and innovations. Among other streams of work, IPA is working with the Reform Secretariat and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) in the nationwide rollout of the new curriculum for kindergarten through 6th grade (primary 6).



Our Future

IPA Ghana is at an inflection point in its growth. We are transitioning from our early status as a young nonprofit working in the development space into a go-to resource for evidence-based insights for government, nonprofits, and the private sector. As we navigate this transition, we are focusing on two goals. They are to:

- » **Reinforce IPA's status as a known source of high-quality research.** As one of the only organizations in Ghana with the skills and capacity to conduct high-quality impact evaluations, we are in a strong position to merge our deep knowledge of local issues with our unparalleled research capability.
- » **Partner with decision-makers to seek, generate, and apply evidence at scale to help the poor.** Partner with decisionmakers to seek, generate, and apply evidence at scale to help the poor. Our IPA research affiliates and our local staff are a rich source of deep expertise and established relationships with local development organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies. We are working to expand those relationships by building policy considerations into all study designs, communicating what we know, and collaborating with our partners in government. We are also working with organizations to identify policy gaps and set research agendas together.

Building a world with **More Evidence** and **Less Poverty.**

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