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IPA Zambia Presents at Evidence for Impact Symposium



IPA Senior Policy Manager, Bethany Park, (left) presenting at the event.

From March 20-22, the Zambian Ministry of Health with support from USAID, DFID, and Population Council, convened the first national Evidence for Impact research symposium. The theme of this year's symposium was "Translating Research into Gains in Primary and Community Health in Zambia." The focus of the symposium was on reproductive, maternal and newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services (RMNCAH-N) in primary care and community settings. The symposium showcased research conducted at all levels of policymaking and service delivery from community to national levels.

The symposium convened government agencies, public and private research institutions, development partners, UN agencies, the scientific community and networks, academia, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and individual researchers. Over 300 participants attended.

IPA participated in a plenary session focused on the process of translating research into policy and programs. The panel came to a consensus on the importance of: ensuring co-creation of evidence to guarantee ownership of research results; engaging policymakers, researchers, and end users at all stages of research; and ensuring that research utilization is integrated from the start. The discussion also highlighted the importance of going beyond research dissemination to research utilization and building capacity in research skills and knowledge translation techniques in all relevant institutions (i.e., government, civil society, and communities).

IPA presented results from four studies:

- [Evaluating the Impacts of Home-Based Growth Charts and Community Monitoring on Stunting in Zambia](#)
- [Interpersonal Communication to Encourage Use of Female Condoms in Zambia](#)
- [Contraceptive Adoption, Fertility, and the Family in Zambia](#)
- [Recruiting and Motivating Community Health Workers in Zambia](#)

Speakers: Bethany Park (Senior Policy Manager, IPA), Dr. Godfrey Biemba (Director, National Health Research Authority), Dr. Silumesi (Director of Public Health, Ministry of Health), Dr. Mbizvo (Country Director, Population Council), and Melanie Luick-Martins (Health Director, USAID)

Partners: Government of Zambia, Ministry of Health

IPA Zambia Presents at the Third National Food and Nutrition Summit

From April 24 - April 26, the National Food and Nutrition Commission of Zambia hosted the third National Food and Nutrition Summit in Lusaka. Also known as the Third International Conference on Nutrition (ICN3), the event focused on the role of nutrition in driving sustainable development and was sponsored and attended by a range of government, research, and aid organizations. IPA Zambia presented a poster on a study evaluating the effect of growth charts on child development. ICN3 highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral, multi-partner approaches to combat global and regional food and nutrition insecurity.

Researchers: Günther Fink (Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute), Rachel Levenson (Harvard University), Peter Rockers (Boston University), and Sarah Tembo (IPA Zambia).

IPA Zambia Presents at 10th ICT4D Conference in Lusaka

IPA Zambia Country Director, Carlos Acero, presented at the 10th Conference of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) that was held from May 8 - May 10, 2018 in Lusaka. Carlos' presentation focused on the potential benefits of digital wage payments for women and employers, based on the existing evidence from studies in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Niger, and India that tested the introduction of digital instead of cash payments for wages and social safety net transfers. Overall, the studies found that digital payments can save recipients time, increase use of formal savings, improve recipients' ability to manage shocks and give women control over the money they earn, and encourage the use of formal financial services. The research also identified access barriers, including agent liquidity and gender-based norms to access and use mobile accounts, which undermined the expected impact of the digitization of salary payments. More research is needed to design and test solutions to overcome these barriers.

Speaker: Carlos Acero (IPA Zambia Country Director)

IPA Zambia Co-Hosts Event on the Allocation of Teachers across Public Schools in Zambia



Researcher Torsten Figueiredo Walter presenting at the dissemination.

On June 22, IPA and the International Growth Centre (IGC), in collaboration with the Zambian Ministry of General Education (MoGE), hosted a policy dissemination event on results from a study titled "The Allocation of Teachers across Public Schools in Zambia" led by Torsten Figueiredo Walter (London School of Economics). The event was attended by 30 stakeholders including representatives from the MoGE and members of civil society.

IGC Country Director, Dr. Anand Rajaram, opened the event by highlighting the importance of understanding the allocation of teachers as they are a key input in determining development outcomes. This study was therefore timely as it provided key insights into understanding how and where a key government input—teachers in this case—were allocated and, more importantly, provided possible solutions to solving the misallocation problem.

Torsten reported large staffing inequities across public schools. While 10 percent of public primary school pupils attend schools with a pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) below 30 pupils per teacher, 16 percent of pupils—approximately 475,000 children—go to schools with PTR above 80. Imbalances are largely concentrated within rather than across districts and are linked to administrative challenges in teacher workforce management, including uneven enforcement of the MoGE's staffing guidelines, weak deployment and transfer policies, payroll mismatch, and inadequate budgeting of teaching positions, meaning teachers are not being effectively deployed, retained, and transferred where they might be needed. Results showed that districts with larger

differences in PTR between schools show a lower pupil performance at the 2017 national grade 7 exams compared to districts with smaller PTR differences between schools, suggesting PTR dispersion is not only worrisome in terms of inequity, but may also contribute to lower overall educational outcomes.

During the discussion, MoGE officials noted that the persisting challenge of teacher allocation may be due in part to payroll mismatches. Other solutions that still need to be explored include whether there are cost-effective approaches that can be used to retain teachers in rural areas. IPA Zambia Country Director, Carlos Acero, closed the event by highlighting potential areas for efficiency gains that can be achieved by addressing challenges to the policies on deployment and transfers.

Researcher: Torsten Figueiredo Walter (London School of Economics)

Speakers: Dr. Anand Rajaram (IGC Country Director), Carlos Acero (IPA Zambia Country Director)

Partners: International Growth Centre (IGC), Zambia Ministry of General Education (MoGE)

IPA Zambia Presents Preliminary Results of Maternal Health Study at Ministry of Health Working Group

On July 27, IPA and the International Growth Centre (IGC), in collaboration with the Zambian Ministry of Health (MoH), presented the preliminary results of a study titled "Maternal Mortality Risk and Desired Fertility" at the MoH's Family Planning Technical Working Group meeting. These meetings are monthly policy and technical sessions hosted by the MoH with stakeholders and representatives from organizations that address family planning in Zambia. The study was conducted in high-density urban settlements of Lusaka by a research team led by Professors Nava Ashraf (London School of Economics), Erica Field (Duke University), Roberta Ziparo (Aix-Marseille University), and Alessandra Voena (University of Chicago). Federica Esu, Associate in Research at Duke University, presented the latest findings of the study.

During the presentation, working group participants encouraged the research team to expand the scope of the study by examining the impact of the program in rural areas, on a larger sample, and in areas

where gender differences in fertility preferences appear to be broader. During the panel discussion, participants also discussed the need for strategies to increase male involvement in family planning decisions as well as to design successful strategies at the national level that could be applied throughout communities and health facilities across Zambia.

Researchers: Nava Ashraf (London School of Economics), Erica Field (Duke University), Roberta Ziparo (Aix-Marseille University), and Alessandra Voena (University of Chicago)

Partners: International Growth Centre (IGC), Zambian Ministry of Health (MoH)

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About

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.

The Zambia Bulletin is designed to keep stakeholders and partners informed of ongoing research. For more information, visit www.poverty-action.org/zambia.

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