

Myanmar



Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy nonprofit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world's poor. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 600 leading academics to conduct over 830 evaluations in 51 countries. The IPA Myanmar office was established in 2015, and the office currently has several research projects underway in the sectors of peace and recovery, financial inclusion, social protection, and health.

More Evidence

In Myanmar, 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 people in Myanmar.

HEALTH | SOCIAL PROTECTION

Can unconditional cash transfers to mothers improve child nutrition?

In Myanmar, which has one of the highest rates of child growth stunting in the Asia-Pacific region, IPA is working with researchers to evaluate the impact of maternal cash transfers and nutritional information on child health and wellbeing. Additionally, researchers are testing whether delivering cash through governmental institutions or through an existing microfinance institution is more cost-effective and easier to scale-up.

HEALTH

Can mobile phone-based education reduce infant mortality? Myanmar has the highest infant mortality rate

in Southeast Asia, and mobile phone-based education may be a cost-effective way to alleviate this problem, as the country has one of the highest rates of smartphone uptake in the developing world. IPA is partnering with Koe Koe Tech to study the effects of a maternal health education app on pregnant women's health literacy and behavior, and whether social network effects mitigate or intensify impacts.

ENERGY

Equitable Access to Solar Mini-grids in Myanmar

Access to electricity can bring significant economic benefits to communities, but in many rural areas extending the electrical grid can be costly, difficult, and unreliable. Decentralized, "off-grid" energy systems such as solar mini-grids may be another effective way to provide energy to communities that do not have access to an electrical grid, but less is known about their impacts, particularly for women. In Myanmar, IPA is working with researchers to study what determines household energy use and to examine

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Since 2015

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Financial Inclusion, Governance, Health, Peace & Recovery, Small & Medium Enterprises, Social Protection

RESEARCH PROJECTS

12 active, 5 completed

KEY PARTNERS

Duke University, Government of Myanmar, Harvard University, International Growth Centre, Joint Peace Fund, Koe Koe Tech, The Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT), London School of Economics and Political Science, Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association, Namati, Population Services International, Save the Children International, University of Sydney

KEY RESEARCHERS

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the associations between solar mini-grids and outcomes for households, firms, and community facilities.

Better Programs & Policies

IPA evidence has already contributed to improving millions of lives globally. Now, with nearly two decades of evidence to build on, we are increasingly focusing on government and partner collaboration to translate evidence into better programs and policies.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

IPA is partnering with Landesa to study the landless population in Myanmar in order to optimize the implementation of evidence-based land allocation programs underway in the country. The Myanmar government facilitates rural development through a large-scale land allocation policy aiming to increase access to land for vulnerable groups. Landesa, a research and advocacy organization that partners with governments and civil society to develop pro-poor and gender-sensitive laws, policies, and programs that strengthen land rights, has been working with the Myanmar government to advocate for more secure and equitable land rights in the country. Landesa partnered with IPA to conduct rigorous quantitative and qualitative research, filling the information gap of obstacles to land security/land titling and the underlying causes of gender inequality in Myanmar's Delta region. The results of the study have been shared with the government of Myanmar to contribute to equitable and inclusive land allocation policies and programs.

PEACE & RECOVERY

Measuring Knowledge and Understanding of the Peace Process in Myanmar

A key step toward designing an inclusive peace process is understanding the knowledge, perceptions, and expectations of the people involved. With this in mind, the Joint Peace Fund, a multi-donor initiative that supports the peace process in Myanmar with technical, financial, and advisory assistance, has commissioned IPA and Myanmar Survey Research to gather quantitative and qualitative data on public knowledge and understanding of Myanmar's peace process. The data will be shared with stakeholders involved in the peace process, with the goal of promoting greater levels of public participation in the process.



Our Future

IPA Myanmar is becoming a go-to resource for evidence-based insights for government, nonprofits, and the private sector. As we continue to expand our presence in Myanmar, we are focusing on two goals. They are to:

- » **Reinforce IPA's status as a known source of high-quality research.** We continue to bring our expertise in high-quality impact evaluations to Myanmar, providing the capacity to run rigorous evaluations across sectors. We work together with knowledgeable government and academic partners through the concept and design stage to ensure that the evidence provides rigorous, meaningful results for decision-makers.
- » **Partner with decision-makers to seek, generate, and apply evidence at scale to help the poor.** IPA will work together with our close partner, the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), to train policymakers on what kind of evidence is needed in which decisions, how to determine what evidence is rigorous, and how to use evidence to guide programs and policies. We seek to work together with local and international researchers to both provide opportunities for local academics to build and apply their skills and to make our evidence more relevant to the local policy context. IPA also supports decision-makers in applying this evidence along the path to scale.

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

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