

Uganda



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 decisionmakers to ensure that the evidence created is used to improve opportunities for the world's poor. In the ten years since IPA was founded, we have worked with over 250 leading academics to manage over 400 evaluations in 51 countries. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries, such as Uganda 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 Uganda, 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 Ugandan poor.

FINANCE & ENTERPRISE

The poorest, most vulnerable women benefit most from microenterprise start-up assistance.

In post-war northern Uganda, IPA studied whether giving the poorest and most vulnerable women a package of cash grants, basic business skills training, and advising visits from a community worker would translate into sustainable livelihoods. We found dramatic increases in business and reductions in poverty,

including a doubling of cash earnings and a tripling of savings. These economic effects alone did not automatically translate into impacts on mental health or empowerment in the household, however, pointing to important issues for future programs to understand.

EDUCATION & FINANCE

Commitment savings devices increase savings and spending on school supplies.

In another study, we tested a school-based commitment savings device for educational expenses. Researchers compared an account fully-committed to educational expenses to an account in which savings were available for cash withdrawal, but intended for educational expenses. In the weaker commitment, in which savings were available for cash

IPA UGANDA

Since 2008

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture
Finance & Enterprise
Governance
Health

RESEARCH PROJECTS

14 Completed, 18 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS

3ie, ACODE, The AIDS Support Organization, Clinton Health Access Initiative, FINCA, GOAL Uganda, ILO, Living Goods, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), Private Education Development Network, Technoserve, UNEP, USAID, World Bank,

KEY RESEARCHERS

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withdrawal, we saw increased savings in the program accounts as well as higher expenditures on educational supplies when combined with a parent outreach program. Exam scores covering language and math skills also increased, but we found no effect for the fully-committed account, and no effect for either account on attendance, enrollment, or non-cognitive skills.

Better Programs & Policies

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

HEALTH

Installing chlorine dispensers next to community water sources increases water treatment.

In Kenya, this technology led to a six-fold increase in the percentage of households that treat their water before use and has now reached one million people in Kenya, Haiti, and Uganda. This technology is also being piloted in other countries, where we are measuring the impact with results forthcoming.

GOVERNANCE

Know your budget program. In collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), Overseas Development Institute Budget Strengthening Initiative (ODI BSI) and IPA, the Government of Uganda has launched a platform for government budgets to be posted on a website. Through an ongoing rigorous evaluation, IPA is helping the government to understand if the program will improve transparency, accountability, and service delivery; and if so, why.



Our Future

IPA Uganda 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 Uganda 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 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, including the Ministries of Finance, Health, and Education.

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