

Building Evidence on Financial Services



Innovations for Poverty Action

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to discovering and promoting effective solutions to global poverty problems. In close partnership with decision makers—the policy makers, practitioners, investors, and donors working with the poor around the world—we design and evaluate potential solutions to poverty problems using randomized evaluations, the most rigorous evaluation method available. We also mobilize and support these decision makers to use these solutions to build better programs and policies at scale. In collaboration with over 400 leading academics and implementing organizations, we have results from over 275 completed studies with over 245 in progress around the world. Our studies cover solutions for effective agriculture, education, health, finance, governance, peace & recovery, and social protection.

The Financial Services for the Poor Initiative

The Financial Services for the Poor Initiative supports research on innovations that help low-income households in the developing world access and benefit from formal financial services. We address outstanding questions on how to design and scale innovations to bring affordable and effective services within the reach of previously unbanked and underserved clients.

The initiative currently supports 28 research projects: 18 of which are funded through competitive research awards, and ten through an internal consultative process for used

on priority research questions.

Of these, 22 projects have received research implementation grants, for up to \$150,000 each, enabling research teams to conduct large-scale randomized evaluations on savings and payment innovations.

Six projects have received smaller research planning grants to pilot ideas, explore research questions, conduct qualitative feedback and background research, and assess the feasibility of a randomized evaluation.



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