

Kenya



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 Kenya, 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 Kenya, 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 research below offer promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of the Kenyan poor.

FINANCE

Simply giving cash to poor Kenyans leads to significant improvements in income, food security, and psychological well-being. A recent study found that the GiveDirectly model of unconditional cash transfers, giving money to the poor with no strings attached, was effective: households who receive cash experience, on average, a 33 percent increase in income and a 53 percent increase in assets. While common perceptions might suggest

that the poor will spend cash on vices, in this Kenyan program, on average, the poor actually spent cash given to them unconditionally on a broad variety of items, including food, shelter, and productive investments. The study has received extensive media coverage, influencing global debates on the value of giving cash to the poor.

AGRICULTURE

Loans for farmers to purchase rainwater harvesting tanks increase the probability that girls are enrolled in school. A study of a loan program which enabled dairy farmers to purchase rainwater harvesting tanks with four percent down shows that milk production improved, specifically for those without previous access to piped water. The loan program also reduced the time girls spent fetching water by 35 percent, decreasing demands on

IPA KENYA
Office established in 2005 with IPA-affiliated researcher presence for 20 years

FOCUS SECTORS
Agriculture
Education
Finance
Health
Water & Sanitation

RESEARCH PROJECTS
52 Completed, 28 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS
Angaza Designs, GiveDirectly, Ministry of Education, Mumias Sugar Company, Safaricom

KEY RESEARCHERS
Pascaline Dupas (Stanford), Paul Gertler (UC Berkeley), Johannes Haushofer (MIT), Michael Kremer (Harvard University), Isaac Mbiti (Southern Methodist University), Ted Miguel (UC Berkeley), Clair Null (Emory University), Tavneet Suri (MIT Sloan)

their time, and increasing the likelihood that they were in school, even in an area where girls' enrollment was already high. Asset collateralization also significantly increased loan use without decreasing the repayment rate, suggesting that improving access to credit gives farmers access to productive technologies otherwise out of their financial reach.

* For more information on these studies and others, visit poverty-action.org/kenya

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

School-based deworming reduces school absenteeism by up to 25 percent for just pennies per child. IPA's school-based deworming model has been shown to reduce school absenteeism and increase incomes by as much as 23 percent as dewormed children become wage-earning adults. Our flagship school-based deworming results have been brought to other countries, impacting more than 40 million children worldwide. In 2013, over one million children were dewormed in Kenya alone.

WATER & SANITATION

Which combination of water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition programs are most effective and cost effective in early child development? Our work on safe water showed that installing chlorine dispensers near water collection sites led to a six-fold increase in water treated with chlorine. While chlorine is essential, we also know that sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition can impact early child development. An expansive on-going water and sanitation study in Western Kenya is addressing these questions by measuring which combination of these programs is most effective and cost effective. We have been collaborating with relevant decisionmakers throughout the process so that the results can help steer government and private resources to the most promising programs.



Our Future

IPA Kenya 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 Kenya 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 and government agencies. For example, we have created long-lasting partnerships with the Kenyan Ministries of Health and Education to help them apply evidence to affect millions of lives.

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

Contact info-kenya@poverty-action.org Visit www.poverty-action.org/kenya