

INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION | COUNTRY PROGRAM BRIEF

## Uganda



A mobile banking customer with her phone in Uganda. © 2019 IPA. Reuse.

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a global research and policy nonprofit that discovers and advances what works to improve the lives of people living in poverty. IPA tests promising ideas across contexts and along the path to scale, proactively engages key decision-makers throughout the research process, shares findings with the right people at the right time, and equips partners with the skills and tools they need to use data and evidence. Since our founding in 2002, we have worked with over 600 leading academics to conduct more than 900 evaluations in 52 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact hundreds of millions of lives worldwide.

### More Evidence

Since its inception in 2010, IPA Uganda has been at the forefront of collaboration with researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to identify, evaluate, and scale impactful interventions, thereby shaping national policy in a range of sectors. Central to our mission are our partnerships with key government entities such as the Bank of Uganda, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, and the Office of the Prime Minister. These collaborations serve as pillars for the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based policies aimed at driving sustainable development across Uganda.

#### AGRICULTURE

Rigorous evaluations of engagement strategies across the agricultural value chain.

Researchers, in partnership with a large coffee exporting company and IPA, are conducting a randomized evaluation to test whether [providing traders "bonuses" for high quality coffee](#) affects the prices traders offer coffee farmers and farmers' incentives to invest in the quality of production. Separately, researchers are evaluating the impact and [cost](#).

[effectiveness of a farming television program](#) in disseminating recommended agricultural techniques to farmers to increase productivity.

#### CONSUMER PROTECTION & FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Consumer-driven protection and inclusion mechanisms.

Over the years, IPA has partnered with government bodies like the Bank of Uganda and the Uganda Communications Commission to measure risks associated with fraud attempts, debt stress from high-cost loans, and hidden fees/charges on digital payments. For example, researchers have supported the Uganda Communications Commission to test and implement new tools for [detecting complaints data](#) in mobile financial services. Also, researchers explored a citizen science approach using high-frequency, real-time crowdsourced data to [detect mobile financial services agents](#), [comparing and measure the efficacy of information campaigns](#) against overcharging. Separately, researchers are testing the [impact of financial services](#) to consumers involved in mobile money disputes.

#### IPA UGANDA

Since 2010

#### FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Consumer Protection, Early Childhood Development, Education, Financial Inclusion, Gender Health, Peace & Recovery

#### RESEARCH STUDIES

25 completed, 40 ongoing

#### KEY PARTNERS

Ac/IFoundation, Bank of Uganda, BAC, International Church of Uganda, Pan Church, A&I, Housing and Real Estate Agent, Young, International Rescue Committee, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, Office of the Prime Minister, The Atlantic Centre World Vision.

#### KEY RESEARCHER

**AFFILIATIONS**  
Center for Global Development, The George Washington University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, MIT, University of California, Berkeley, University of Chicago, University of Florida, University of Washington, World Bank, Yale University.

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# Uganda Country Brief

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