

Peru



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 Peru 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 Peru, 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 Peruvian poor.

FINANCE

Business training for microcredit clients can be helpful in growing knowledge but not necessarily profits. An IPA study that evaluated a training program for female microcredit clients in Peru found that those who received the training were earning 26 percent higher than their peers in “bad months” when they would have expected downward fluctuations in their sales. Clients who received business

training were also significantly more likely to keep records of their account withdrawals, and had better knowledge about business and how to use profits for business growth and innovation. However, there was no evidence that the training had an impact on business revenue, profits, or number of workers employed.

EDUCATION

Can teaching at-risk kids social and communication skills reduce violence and improve students’ learning and well-being?

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and the World Bank, this large-scale program will introduce a learning curriculum into public schools in vulnerable neighborhoods of Lima. IPA will follow the progress of students

IPA PERU

Since 2003

FOCUS SECTORS

Education
Finance
Health

RESEARCH PROJECTS

12 Completed, 10 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS

Banco de la Nación, FINCA, IDB, Instituto Apoyo, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos, GRADE, Microfinanzas Arariwa, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, Ministry of Economics and Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Plan Peru, PRISMA, Pro Mujer, SEP, SBS, Universidad Cayetano Heredia, World Bank

KEY RESEARCHERS

Paul Gertler (UC Berkeley)
Dean Karlan (Yale University)

in the program, designed as part of the National Strategy Against School Violence, throughout the two-year pilot in 350 schools and will work with the Ministry of Education to determine the scale-up feasibility of the program.

Other on-going work includes a study on a new approach to teaching math in pre-school and work with the Ministry of Health on pay-for-performance.

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.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

A holistic package of services can help the ultra-poor escape poverty.

Years of research have taught us that many “income generating” programs, such as microcredit, neither reach the ultra-poor, nor do much to alleviate poverty. So we built this approach, modeled after BRAC in Bangladesh, to address many of the problems of the poor at once. We are testing the model in seven countries, and preliminary results are promising. In Peru, the program paired an asset transfer—usually guinea pigs—with a small cash transfer, health education, savings accounts, and weekly monitoring visits. Early results in Peru show positive results, including an increase in income for those who participated in the program.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

IPA helps create a culture of evidence-based decisionmaking. Together with our partners at the Jameel Latif Poverty Action Lab at MIT, IPA supported the launch of the Quipu Commission in Peru, which convenes several government ministries together with researchers to build a policy-focused research agenda and works to institutionalize learning and innovation within ministries. Our next stage of growth is to solicit new studies responding to policy gaps, specifically in education.



Our Future

IPA Peru is at an inflection point in its evolution as an organization. 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.** We are the only research organization in Peru specialized in randomized evaluations. We will build on this foundation as we grow our research network locally and internationally and strengthen our research management and data collection capacities, including computer-assisted interviewing.
- » **Partner with decisionmakers to seek, generate, and apply evidence at scale.** IPA works with the Peruvian government and other civil society institutions with the aim of promoting the use and production of evidence. We do this by helping to create a culture of evidence and learning in the public sector through workshops, seminars, conferences, and trainings and through institutionalizing the use and production of evidence by establishing commissions and partnerships. We will also empower citizens to demand evidence through sharing results in mass and social media.

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

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

APRIL 2014