

IPA Philippines



Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy non-profit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world's poor. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 400 leading academics to conduct over 600 evaluations in 51 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries, such as the Philippines, 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 the Philippines, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, applied research by building foundational research capacity and conducting evaluations in areas of pressing national concerns. Two completed evaluations offer promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of the Filipino poor. Our evidence has revealed:

FINANCE
Text message reminders to save encourages clients to make regular deposits. With over 1 billion text messages sent per day, the Philippines is known as the text message capital of the world. IPA found that those who were randomly assigned to receive a monthly savings reminder via text message increased their total amount

saved by six percent. IPA also studied the effectiveness of text message reminders as a tool for loaning repayment among micro-loan users.

MIGRATION
Filipino migrants increase remittances when their transfers are intended for education. IPA researchers wanted to see if a new financial product, called EduPay, would provide migrant workers with greater ability to control the use of remittances for education. Some Filipino migrants working in Italy had the option of channeling a small lottery gain through EduPay as tuition payments directly to schools in the Philippines. Comparatively, they were allowed to simply attach "label" to their transfers as intended for education.

IPA PHILIPPINES
since 2002

FOCUS SECTORS
Agriculture, Financial Inclusion, Governance, Livelihoods, Small Business, Microfinance

RESEARCH STUDIES
30 Completed, 10 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS
Asian Development Bank, Asian Institute of Management, Bank of the Philippine Islands Foundation Inc., Centre for Economic Policy Research, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Development Bank of the Philippines, First Metro Bank, First Valley Bank, International Centre for Migration Policy, Millennium Challenge Corp., Philippine Group Insurance Corp., Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, University of the Philippines

KEY RESEARCHERS
Dean Karlan (Yale University), Dean Karlan (University of Michigan)

We found that the labeling increased total transfers by 15.3 percent. Directly channeling the funds to schools resulted in an additional modest increase of 3.9 percent on top of the labeling. Moreover, the EduPay product was preferred for actual remittances and a substantial number of interviewed migrants use it for their transfers with a take-up rate over 40 percent (under certain take-up measures).

IPA Philippines



Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy non-profit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. IPA brings together researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications, ensuring that the evidence created is used to improve the lives of the world's poor. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 400 leading academics to conduct over 600 evaluations in 51 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries, such as the Philippines, 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 the Philippines, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, applicable research by building foundational research capacity and conducting evaluations in areas of pressing national concern. Two completed evaluations offer promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of the Filipino poor. Our evidence has revealed:

FINANCE

Text message reminders to save encourages clients to make regular deposits. With over 1 billion text messages sent per day, the Philippines is known as the text message capital of the world. IPA found that those who were randomly assigned to receive a monthly savings reminder via text message increased their total amount saved by 16 percent. IPA also studied the

effectiveness of text message reminders as a tool for boosting repayment among micro-borrowers.

MIGRATION

Filipino migrants increase remittances when their transfers are intended for education. IPA researchers wanted to see if a new financial product, called EduPay, would provide migrant workers with greater ability to control the use of remittances for education. Some Filipino migrants working in Italy had the option of channeling a windfall lottery gain through EduPay as tuition payments directly to schools in the Philippines. Collectively, they were allowed to simply attach a "label" to their transfers as intended for education. We found that the labeling increased

IPA PHILIPPINES
Since 2002

FOCUS SECTORS
Agriculture, Financial Inclusion, Governance, Livelihoods, Small & Medium Enterprises

RESEARCH STUDIES
30 Completed, 18 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS
Asian Development Bank, Asian Institute of Management, Bank of the Philippine Islands Foundation, Inc., Centre for Economic Policy Research, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Development Bank of the Philippines, First Metro Bank, First Valley Bank, International Care Ministries (ICM), Millennium Challenge Corp., Philippine City Insurance Corp., Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Research Institute for Mindanao Culture, University of the Philippines

KEY RESEARCHERS
Dean Karlan (Yale University), Dean Yang (University of Michigan)

total transfers by 15.3 percent. Directly channeling the funds to schools resulted in an additional modest increase of 1.9 percent on top of the labeling. Moreover, the EduPay product was offered for actual remittances and a substantial number of intercepted migrants use it for their transfers (with a take-up rate over 40 percent (under certain take-up measures)).

Philippines Country Brief

In the Philippines, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, applicable research by building foundational research capacity and conducting evaluations in areas of pressing national concern. Two completed evaluations offer promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of the Filipino poor.

February 01, 2017