

INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION | COUNTRY PROGRAM BRIEF

Rwanda



Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy nonprofit 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 to ensure that both the evidence created and data collected is used to improve the lives of the world's poor. We also empower our partners to strengthen their monitoring, learning, and evaluation capabilities. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 175 leading academics to conduct over 450 evaluations in 57 countries. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries, such as Rwanda, where we have built and maintained staff, established relationships with government, NGOs, and the private sector, and deep knowledge of local issues.

More Evidence

In Rwanda, 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 work below offer promising insights into everyday issues that affect the lives of the Rwandan poor.

HEALTH | SOCIAL PROTECTION

How do standard development programs compare to just giving people cash? IPA Rwanda worked with researchers to rigorously evaluate the impact of modest unconditional cash transfers compared to an integrated nutrition and WASH program. Neither the program nor the equivalent amount of cash impacted dietary diversity, child and maternal anemia, child growth, wealth, or consumption. A much larger cash transfer had positive impacts on household dietary diversity, height-for-age, child mortality, consumption, savings, assets, and home values.

How does a self-employment and training program compare to giving people cash? Researchers worked with IPA to evaluate the impacts and cost effectiveness of a youth employment program, cash grants of equal cost.

After 18 months, the training program improved productive hours, assets, savings, and subjective well-being. The cash-equivalent cash transfers improved all these outcomes as well as consumption, income, and wealth.

Responding to COVID-19 To understand the reach of the COVID-19 crisis in Rwanda, we conducted two rounds of surveys as part of the Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVER) program. The survey collected information on health, food security and financial resilience, education, and economic activity and employment. **The findings informed policy recommendations related to Rwanda's COVID-19 response.**

AGRICULTURE

How can we improve the sustainability of irrigation systems? Sustainability and coordination problems often plague large-scale irrigation schemes. This study evaluates the impact of irrigation farming practices and farmer welfare and compares group management structures. This research has the potential to inform the Ministry of Agriculture's policies to improve use and coordination of irrigation systems.

IPA RWANDA Since 2013

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture
Education
Finance
Health
Social Protection

RESEARCH PROJECTS

10 Completed, 8 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS

Government of Rwanda, USAID, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Education Development Center, One District, Operational Growth Centre, Nuffield Energy, U.S. Agency for International Development, University of Cape Town (UCT), University of California, Berkeley, Georgetown University, World Bank, DIME

KEY RESEARCHERS

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One way that farmers can improve their income and livelihoods is to transition from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture. Leveraging data from the Rwandan Agricultural Board's survey, and Africa Improved Foods (AIF)—a processor in Rwanda—, researchers are evaluating the effects of access to AIF on farmers' investment in productivity-enhancing inputs.

Rwanda Country Brief

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