

# Zambia



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 575 leading academics to conduct over 650 evaluations in 51 countries. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries, such as Zambia, 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 Zambia, 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 Zambian poor.

### AGRICULTURE

**Access to credit can help agricultural communities cope with lean seasons.** In the absence of formal credit markets, many farming households engage in costly coping strategies to make ends meet between harvests. In this study researchers examined the impact of access to seasonal credit on household wellbeing and agricultural output. They found that access to both food and cash loans during the lean season increased agricultural output and consumption, decreased off-farm labor, and increased local wages.

### HEALTH

**When recruiting community health workers, emphasizing career incentives rather than social incentives attracted workers who were more qualified and performed better on the job.** Workers recruited with career incentives conducted 29 percent more household visits and organized twice as many community meetings, while also seeing the same number of patients. In response, the Zambian Ministry of Health has begun using career incentives in its nationwide recruitment of community health workers.

**Providing families with simple, low-cost growth charts reduced malnutrition.** Giving parents full-sized growth charts to place on the wall in their homes, which included information about nutrition, increased child weight

and reduced child stunting among children who were stunted before the study began. No impact was found for community-based monitoring, in which parents were invited to quarterly meetings to learn if their children had a healthy height and weight.

## IPA ZAMBIA

Since 2010

### FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Education, Governance, Health, Social Protection

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

14 Completed, 13 in Progress

### KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of General Statistics, Ministry of Health, National Food and Nutrition Council, Private Enterprise Programme Zambia, Public Service Management Division (Office of the President), Society for Family Health, Southern Water and Sewerage Company, U.S. Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF, United States Agency for International Development, University of Zambia, World Bank

### KEY RESEARCHERS

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# Zambia Country Brief

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