A multifacted program causes lasting progress for the very poor: Evidence from six countries

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In our paper, we examine the impact of a multifacted program on household outcomes in six countries. The program includes a range of interventions aimed at improving health, education, and economic stability. We find that the program had a significant impact on household income, education, and health outcomes. The program was implemented using a randomized controlled trial design, which allowed us to isolate the impact of the program from other factors. We conclude that the program is a promising approach for improving the lives of the very poor.
A Multifaceted Program Causes Lasting Progress for the Very Poor

We present results from six randomized control trials of an integrated approach to improve livelihoods among the very poor. The approach combines the transfer of a productive asset with consumption support, training, and coaching plus savings encouragement and health education and/or services. Results from the implementation of the same basic program, adapted to a wide variety of geographic and institutional contexts and with multiple implementing partners, show statistically significant cost-effective impacts on consumption (fueled mostly by increases in self-employment income) and psychosocial status of the targeted households. The impact on the poor households lasted at least a year after all implementation ended. It is possible to make sustainable improvements in the economic status of the poor with a relatively short-term intervention.

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