

INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION | COUNTRY PROGRAM BRIEF

# Liberia



In recent decades, trillions of dollars have been spent on programs designed to reduce global poverty, but clear evidence on which programs succeed is rare, and when evidence does exist, decision-makers often do not know about it. 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 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 100 leading academics to conduct over 130 evaluations in 52 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of individuals worldwide. In addition to designing and conducting rigorous evaluations, we have a variety of other partnership models, from consulting with organizations on their monitoring and evaluation work through our **Right Fit Evidence Initiative** to supporting governments with evidence generation and use through embedded labs.

**IPA LIBERIA**  
Since 2010

**FOCUS SECTORS**  
Health and Recovery, Governance, Social Protection, Agriculture, Humanitarian Response and Gender Equity, Education, Small and Medium Enterprises

**RESEARCH STUDIES**  
16 completed, 4 in progress

**KEY PARTNERS**  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Growth Centre (IGC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Ministry of Mines and Energy, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Bank

**KEY RESEARCHERS**  
Janna Amour (IRC), Christopher Blattman (University of Chicago), Sam Christensen (IGC), Jennifer Robinson (IGC), George Ajakaiye (School of Business), Christopher Udry (Northwestern University)

## More Evidence

In Liberia, we have continued our global tradition of rigorous, applicable research by building foundational research capacity and generating evidence to reduce poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Examples of our key research findings are below:

**The Girl Empower program in Liberia led to sustained improvements in child marriage and sexual and reproductive health.** IPA Liberia partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Population Council, and the World Bank's Development Research Group to evaluate the Girl Empower program in Liberia. The program was designed to help girls in emergency situations make healthy life choices, reduce their risk of sexual abuse, and improve school attendance rates.

**Evaluating a large unconditional cash transfer program implemented by Gbedirectly.** A body of research supports cash transfers as a way to improve the lives of vulnerable and poor populations. IPA Liberia partnered with Gbedirectly and USAID to evaluate the impacts of an unconditional cash transfer and market access program. When COVID-19 hit, researchers expanded the study to capture the initial direct and indirect impacts the pandemic is having on the livelihoods of rural households. Results of the evaluation are forthcoming.

**IPA Liberia worked with the Akiba! Impact Lab at the International Rescue Committee to develop a pilot program to combat Modern Slavery Challenge (MISC).** This interactive SDG intervention encouraged men to critically engage with their masculine identity to improve their partner relationships with the aim of reducing partner violence against women. Analysis of a randomized evaluation is ongoing, but the program's high rate of engagement is promising for other emerging rights to life programs to reduce intimate partner violence (IPV).

## Liberia Country Brief

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