Myanmar

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 600 leading academics to conduct over 830 evaluations in 51 countries. The IPA Myanmar office was established in 2015, and the office currently has several research projects underway in the sectors of peace and recovery, financial inclusion, social protection, and health.

More Evidence

In Myanmar, 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 people in Myanmar.

HEALTH | SOCIAL PROTECTION

Can unconditional cash transfers to mothers improve child nutrition? In Myanmar, which has one of the highest rates of child growth stunting in the Asia-Pacific region, IPA is working with researchers to evaluate the impact of maternal cash transfers and nutritional information on child health and wellbeing. Additionally, researchers are testing whether delivering cash through governmental institutions or through an existing microfinance institution is more cost-effective and easier to scale-up.

HEALTH

Can mobile phone-based education reduce infant mortality? Myanmar has the highest infant mortality rate in Southeast Asia, and mobile phone-based education may be a cost-effective way to alleviate this problem, as the country has one of the highest rates of smartphone uptake in the developing world. IPA is partnering with Koe Koe Tech to study the effects of a maternal health education app on pregnant women's health literacy and behavior, and whether social network effects mitigate or intensify impacts.

ENERGY

Equitable Access to Solar Minigrids in Myanmar

Access to electricity can bring significant economic benefits to communities, but in many rural areas extending the electrical grid can be costly, difficult, and unreliable. Decentralized, "off-grid" energy systems such as solar minigrids may be another effective way to provide energy to communities that do not have access to an electrical grid, but less is known about their impacts, particularly for women. In Myanmar, IPA is working with researchers to study what determines household energy use and to examine the associations between solar minigrids and outcomes for households, firms, and community facilities.

IPA MYANMAR

Since 2015

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Financial Inclusion, Governance, Health, Peace & Recovery, Small & Medium Enterprises, Social Protection

RESEARCH PROJECTS

12 active, 5 completed

KEY PARTNERS

Duke University, Government of Myanmar, Harvard University, International Growth Centre, Joint Peace Fund, Koe Koe Tech, The Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT), London School of Economics and Political Science, Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association, Namati, Population Services International, Save the Children International, University of Sydney

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Myanmar

Myanmar Country Brief

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