

Authors

Craig McIntosh
University of California, San Diego

Andrew Zeitlin
Georgetown University

SOCIAL PROTECTION | RESULTS BRIEF

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Are Training Programs Better Than Cash Transfers At Improving The Lives Of Poor And Underemployed Young People? Evidence From Rwanda



Finding effective measures to integrate young people into productive adult life is crucial, especially given Africa's growing youth population. However, the evidence surrounding various policy alternatives is mixed, and there is no clarity on the long-term impact and cost-effectiveness of the various alternatives. In Rwanda, researchers conducted a cash benchmarking evaluation, — a direct comparison of in-kind to cash transfer programs — of a workforce readiness and skills training program called *Huguka Dukore*.

Key Findings

- Both the *Huguka Dukore* program and cash transfers had a positive impact in the short and long term. However, the long-term effects faded by almost half compared to the short term.
- In both the short and long term, the *Huguka Dukore* program had a positive impact on the number of hours spent on productive activities, productive assets owned and business knowledge. In addition, the *Huguka Dukore* program had a positive impact on subjective well-being and savings in the short term.
- In both the short and long term, cash transfers had a positive impact on productive assets, livestock values, savings, and subjective well-being. Furthermore, transfers increased monthly income and per capita consumption in the short term.
- Due to fading impacts, the *Huguka Dukore* program and cost-equivalent cash transfers have statistically indistinguishable impacts in the long term. However, the evidence shows that cash had greater benefits in the short term, especially in terms of income, consumption, and subjective well-being.

RESEARCHERS Craig McIntosh and Andrew Zeitlin	TOPICS Cash Transfers, Human Capital & Skills, Training & Mentoring, Vocational Training, Youth
PARTNERS United States Agency for International Development (USAID), GoodWorks, Education Development Center, Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA)	STUDY TYPE Randomized Evaluation
COUNTRY Rwanda	IPA STAFF Geoffrey Mbarika and Melissa Mahon
SAMPLE 1868 underemployed youth	TIMELINE 2017-2021

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