

Francophone West Africa



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 is available, decision-makers often do not know it exists or how to best use it to inform policies. IPA exists to solve this problem, bringing together leading researchers and decision-makers to generate rigorous evidence and ensure it leads to a tangible impact on the world. Since our founding in 2002, IPA has worked with over 600 leading academics to conduct more than 900 studies in 52 countries. This research has informed hundreds of successful programs that now impact millions of people worldwide.

More Evidence

In IPA Francophone West Africa, we have been truthful to 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 work below offer promising insights into critical issues that affect the lives of the most vulnerable.

CAN TEXT AND AUDIO MESSAGES FOSTER PARENTS' AND TEACHERS' ENGAGEMENT IN CHILDREN'S EDUCATION AND IMPROVE LEARNING IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE?

RESEARCHERS | GUILHERME LICHAND, SHARON WOLF

Engaging parents and teachers in their children's education is fundamental to achieve learning. In Côte d'Ivoire, researchers measured the impact of involving parents and teachers through text and audio messages on student learning outcomes, parental engagement, and teacher professional outcomes. Results showed that parents and teachers believe that they each have a specific role to play, and that their efforts cannot be combined. In fact, each parent reduces the effort put into the child's education if they think the other party is more involved in that goal. Therefore, text and audio messages can foster engagement in children's education and improve learning only if they focus on one party only.

IN MALI, INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF FERTILIZERS THROUGH A MARKET FAIR AND DIFFERENT PAYMENT SCHEMES LED TO HIGHER USE OF FERTILIZERS AND BETTER CROP YIELDS.

RESEARCHERS | ANDREW DILLON AND NICOLÓ TOMASELLI

Agricultural input—and fertilizers in particular—are essential to improve productivity in a sector that remains a means of livelihood for many vulnerable families. To facilitate the purchase and sale of fertilizers, researchers in Mali organized an agricultural market fair with various payment schemes. The results show that farmers buy more fertilizer when a smaller advance payment is required. The increased availability of fertilizers as a result of the fair led to higher use of fertilizers and better crop yields. These findings suggest that input fairs can be a good alternative to improving agricultural productivity.

FRANCOPHONE W. AFRICA

Since 2008

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Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and beyond

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Education, Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Development, Financial Inclusion, Governance, Health, Peace & Recovery

RESEARCH PROJECTS

29 ongoing, 44 completed

KEY PARTNERS

World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, Jacobs Foundation, Development Media International, European Union, Coopérative de Prestation de Services Agricoles Coobsa, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Caisse Nationale des Caisses d'Épargne, Programme d'Appui aux Collectivités Territoriales

KEY RESEARCHERS

Andrew Dillon (Northwestern University), Pascaline Dupas (Stanford University), Estelle Koussoubé (World Bank Gender Innovation Lab), Eugénie Maïga (Université Norbert Zongo), Harounan Kazianga (Oklahoma State University), Karen Macours (Paris School of Economics)

IN BURKINA FASO, AN INTEGRATED MULTIDIMENSIONAL PROGRAM REDUCED ACUTE AND CHRONIC MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN UNDER FIVE BY ABOUT A THIRD AFTER TWO YEARS

RESEARCHERS | ADRIEN BOUGUEN, ANDREW DILLON, AND ALIOU DIALLO

CAN A RADIO CAMPAIGN INCREASE THE USE OF MODERN CONTRACEPTIVES IN BURKINA FASO?

RESEARCHERS | RACHEL GLENNERSTER, VICTOR POULIQUEN, AND JOANNA MURRAY

A PROGRAM IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE SUCCESSFULLY INCREASED YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL APPRENTICESHIPS AND THE NUMBER OF APPRENTICES HIRED BY PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

RESEARCHERS | BRUNO CRÉPON AND PATRICK PREMAND

IPA partnered with a number of different implementing non-profit organizations as well as multilateral partners led by the European Union to evaluate this seminal initiative. A program consisting of a cash transfer, productive asset, and nutrition interventions reduced chronic malnutrition among children under five by about a third after two years, and had moderate effects on acute malnutrition after one year, especially for those most left behind. However, these positive results were observed only when all components of the program were implemented, suggesting that specific nutrition components are fundamental to improving nutrition.

In Burkina Faso, a randomized evaluation found that a multifaceted radio campaign with information on different modern contraceptive methods, how they work, and common myths increased contraceptive use by 20 percent. The campaign also shifted knowledge and attitudes about family planning. Women were 35 percent less likely to believe that modern contraceptives cause side effects such as illness or infertility and 14 percent more likely to say that “women should control the number of children they have during their lifetime.”

Innovations for Poverty Action, the World Bank, and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire partnered to evaluate the impact of a subsidized dual apprenticeship program targeting youth and firms. On average, the program costs CFA 1.1m (approximately US\$2k) per youth for a 24-month apprenticeship. On one hand, medium-term results show that although the apprenticeship program increased participation in formal apprenticeships by 71 percentage points, the firms who hired participants from the formal program did so at the expense of hiring more traditional apprentices. On the other hand, indirect benefits, through increase in days worked as well as better quality of work produced by apprentices, may have broader benefits for firms in the economy.

Better Programs & Policies

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](#) (RFE), to supporting governments with evidence generation through our [Embedded Evidence Labs](#) to help foster a culture of evidence for policy. IPA Francophone West Africa partners with government, development partners, and funders to ensure evidence is translated into policies that will improve the socioeconomic conditions of underserved communities.

ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN COCOA COMMUNITIES (TRECC) PROGRAM

IPA through its Right-Fit Evidence unit provides the TRECC Program with data and evidence to inform their efforts to bring inclusive and equitable quality education in communities where cocoa is the number-one source of income, as they link the private, public, and third sector together. RFE also helps projects' implementers successfully create Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning systems that allow real-time learning to constantly improve implementation. “We used IPA’s independent evaluation reports to decide whether to extend or not funded projects. It is a concrete example of the utility and relevance of IPA’s Right-Fit Evidence services,” Cocoa companies and the Jacob Foundations indicated.

FACILITATING EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

IPA works with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to incorporate evidence into youth employment promotion programs. Some activities we perform include evidence reviews, coordination and communication with stakeholders, technical assistance in conducting impact evaluations and other rigorous quantitative studies, managing budgets and projects, and co-creating research ideas.

Our Future

Moving forward, IPA Francophone West Africa will advance IPA’s institutional goals of creating stronger evidence (i), sharing evidence strategically (ii), and equipping decision-makers to use evidence (iii). In particular, we are aligning our efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by leveraging cost-effective and impactful solutions, creating new partnership platforms for evidence, and ultimately helping local development organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies set more ambitious goals and create a pathway to scale for their concrete attributable development gains.

Building a world with More Evidence and Less Poverty.

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