

INNOVATIONS FOR POVERTY ACTION | COUNTRY PROGRAM BRIEF

IPA Ghana



Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. We design, rigorously evaluate, and refine these solutions and their applications together with decision-makers to ensure that the evidence created is used to improve opportunities for the world's poor. Since our founding in 2002, we have worked with over 400 leading academics to conduct over 830 evaluations in 51 countries. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries such as Ghana where we have local and international staff, established relationships with government, NGOs, and the private sector, and deep knowledge of local issues.

More Evidence

In Ghana, 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 the Ghanaian poor.

SOCIAL PROTECTION The Graduation Model transitioned ultra-poor households out of extreme poverty.

Researchers Anne Dupis, Deborah Karlan, Robert Oloye, Brian Pappalardo, Christopher Udry

The Graduation Model is a holistic set of services, including livelihood training, productive asset transfers, consumption support, savings plans, and life-coaching, aimed at moving chronically poor households from extreme poverty into self-sufficiency. The approach was rigorously tested in Ghana and in five other countries and found to increase consumption, savings, income from livestock, and life satisfaction. In Ghana, simply giving households a productive asset did not have a similar impact, suggesting other components are needed to make the program work.

EDUCATION Targeted instruction improved learning for low-performing students.

Researchers Anne Dupis, Adrienne Jones, Jesse Krieger

Based on a similar program developed by the NGO Pratham in India, the Teacher-Community Assistant Initiative (TCAI) targeted instruction at the level of the child through the use of local teaching assistants. The Government of Ghana, with support from IPA, completed a pilot of the model which reached 25,000 students. An evaluation found that the program improved pupils' basic skills in numeracy and literacy. The government is now conducting a follow-up study to explore ways to improve implementation with stronger monitoring.

AGRICULTURE Rainfall insurance and agricultural extension improved farming practices, but had limited effects on farmer welfare.

Researchers Arthur Fosu, Deborah Karlan, Shashidhar Kishor, Christopher Udry

Building on previous evidence, researchers evaluated the impact of

access to rainfall insurance either coupled with or compared to tailored extension advice, weather forecasts, and improved access to inputs. The study found no evidence that access to the commercially available rainfall insurance in Ghana changed input choices or farmers. Further, the self-demand for rainfall insurance was low. Some evidence suggests an underlying problem may be poor quality seeds, and follow-up research investigating this question is currently underway.

IPA GHANA

Since 2008

FOCUS SECTORS

Agriculture, Education, Health, Small & Medium Enterprises, Social Protection, Environment, Child Protection, Governance

RESEARCH PROJECTS

41 Completed, 26 in Progress

KEY PARTNERS

Ghana Education Service (GES), Ministry of Education, Ghana Health Service (GHS), Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI), Presbyterian Agricultural Services, UNICEF, World Bank, MasterCard International, Vantage Foundation, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), FarmAria

KEY RESEARCHERS

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Ghana Country Brief

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