

Presentation to “New Directions in Anti-Poverty Research Conference”
Trinity College Dublin, 5 Dec. 2022

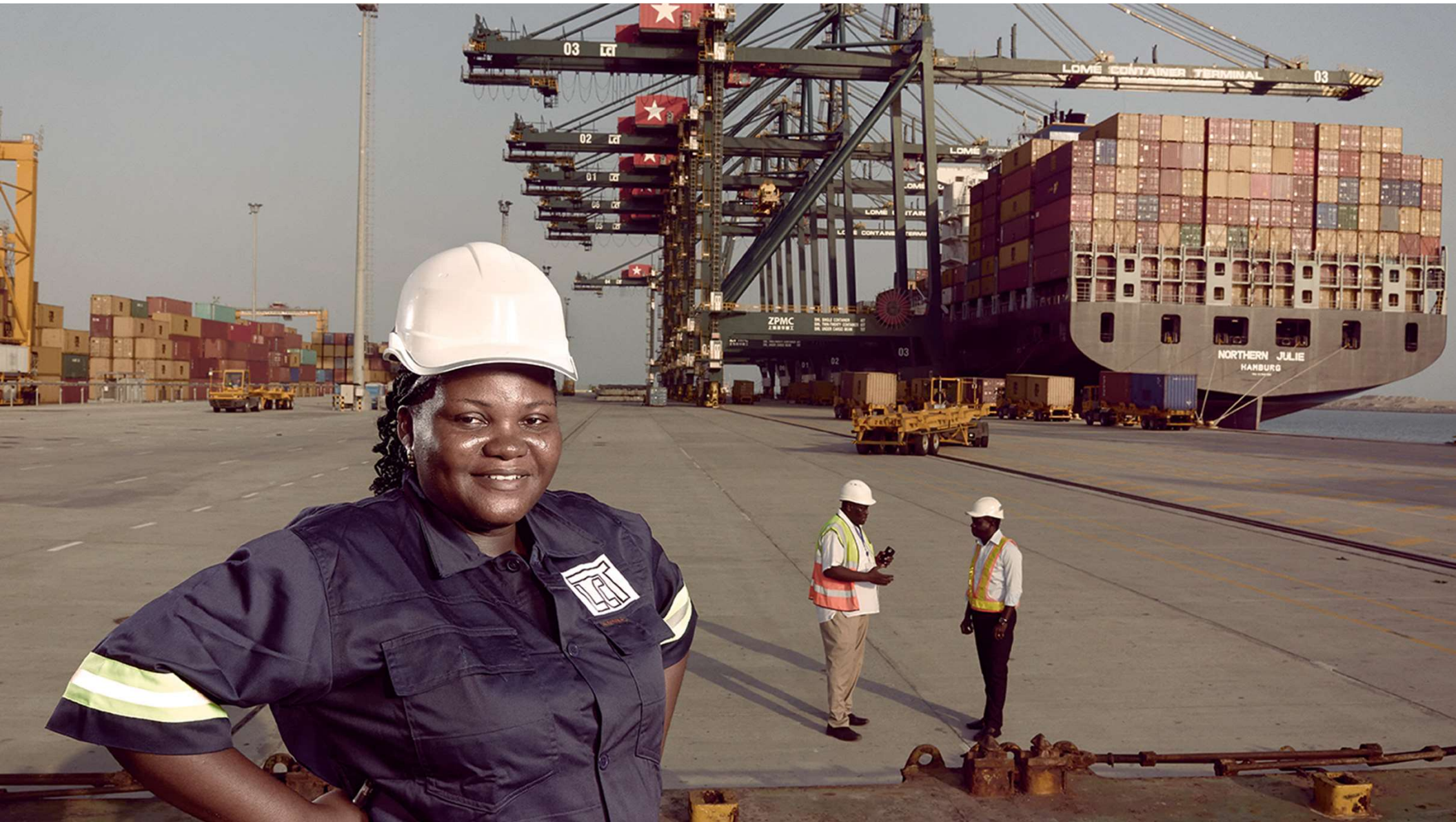
Gender, Economic Inclusion, and Innovation

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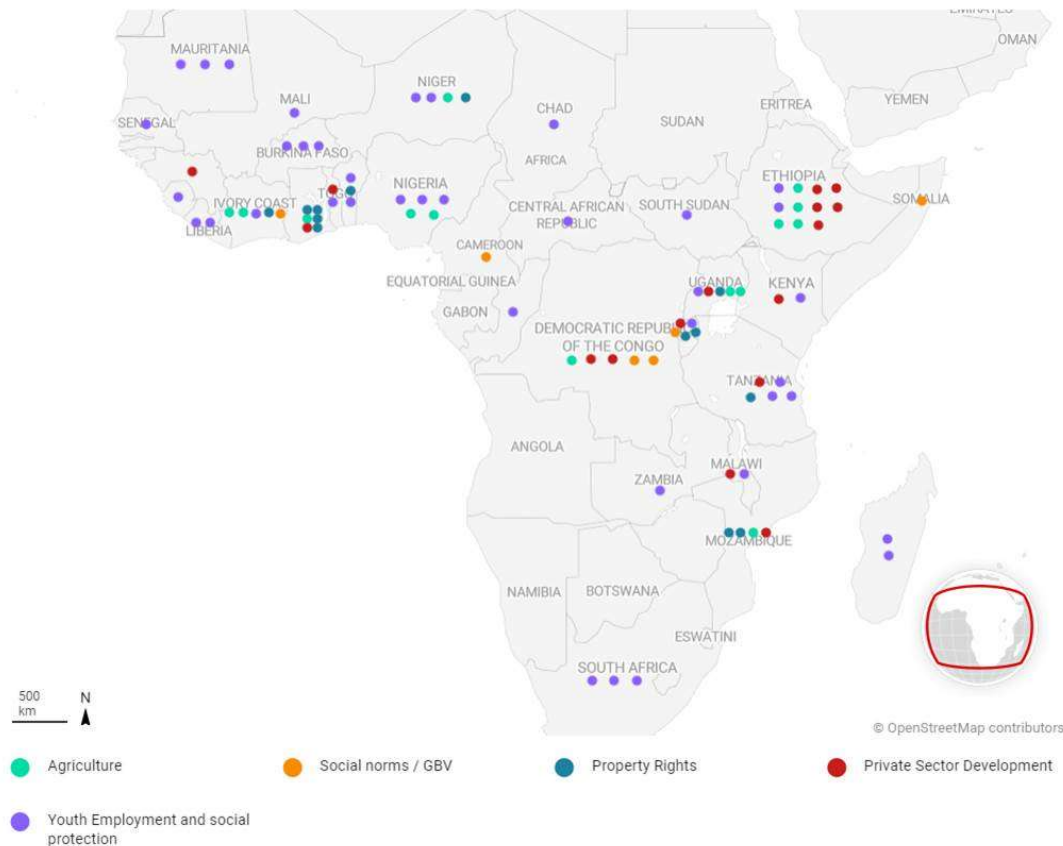


GENDER
INNOVATION
LAB

Figure out what works and what does not to improve gender equality and use it to shape policy



Overview of the Africa GIL

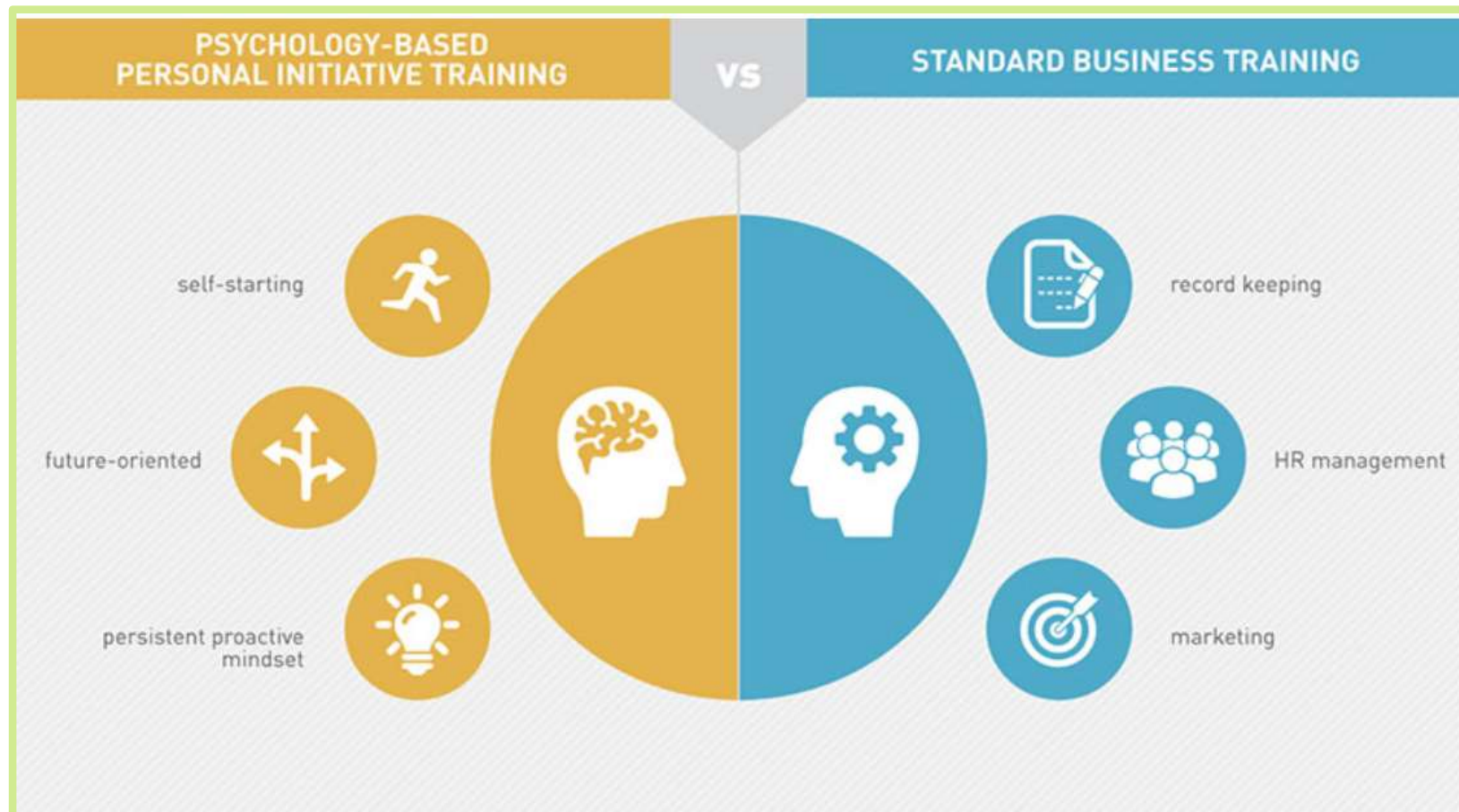


- Core **analytical team** of economists & social scientists leads impact evaluation activities in 6 thematic areas
- Active **partnerships** with operational teams, governments, academics, NGOs, private sector and development partners
- Operational and policy **impact across 46 countries globally**
- Value-for-money: **\$1 directly shifts \$170** in development spending.

Skills

Learn: Comparing standard business training to mindset training

Skills



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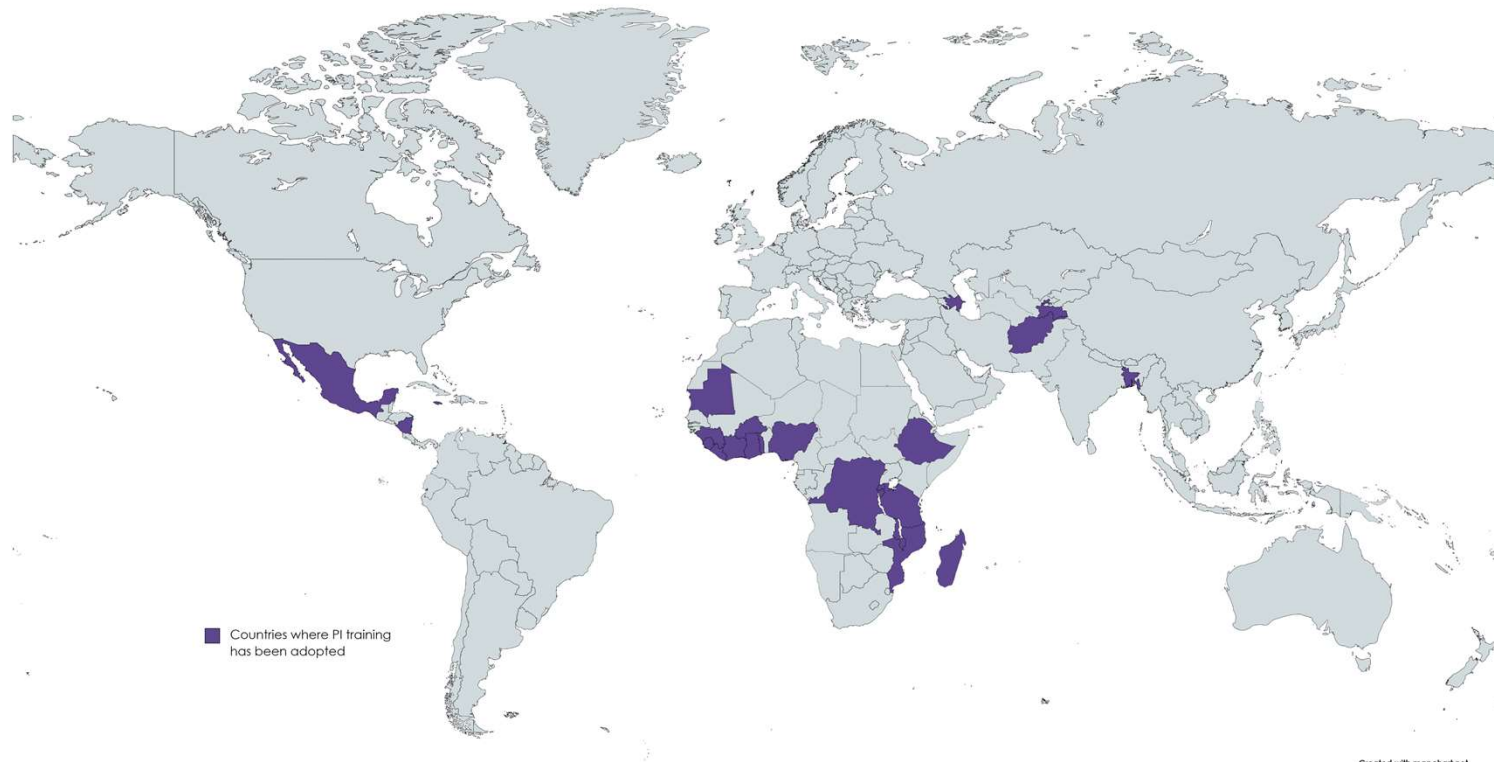
Personal initiative skills



Adopt/Adapt

Personal initiative skills

- Subsequently adapted and rigorously tested in multiple countries in Africa and Latin America/Caribbean
- Adopted and scaled by 36 projects across 25 countries, leading to \$779m in operational impact



Evolve

Adapting personal initiative training (PI) for women farmers in Mozambique

- PI training + agricultural extension fostered entrepreneurship: **doubling the share of women running profitable off-farm businesses**
- PI training enhanced effectiveness of ag extension: **increases in input use, cash crop production, and value of harvest sold**
- **Household expenditure goes up by 25%, and results persist post-implementation**



Boxho et al. (forthcoming)

Advancing the frontier

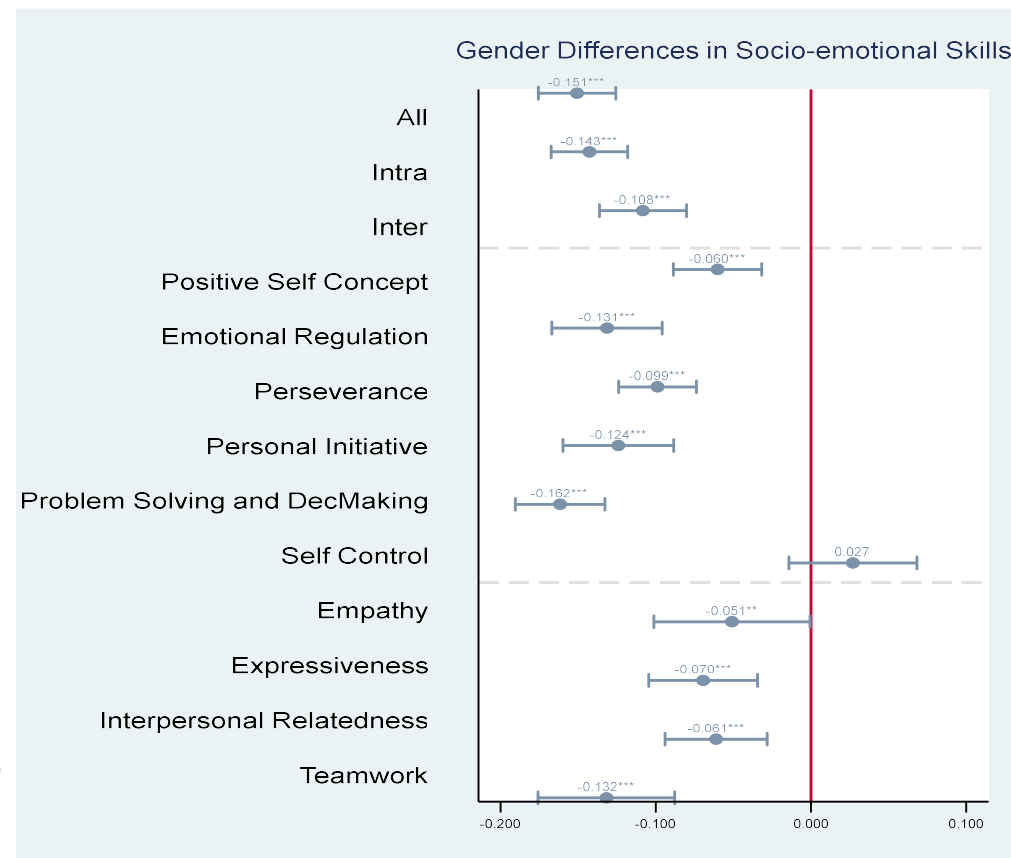
Socio-emotional skills

GIL's new analysis with IPA on socio-emotional skills (SES) from 17 countries in Africa reveals that:

- SES are associated with **higher earnings for both men & women**
- **Men report higher levels of socio-emotional skills** than women
- **Higher levels of education are associated with wider gender gaps in interpersonal skills** --- so closing gender schooling gaps will not fully address the gender gap in SES

Key questions:

- Which particular socio-emotional matter most for which economic outcomes?
- How best to impart these skills to improve development outcomes and narrow gender gaps?



Ajayi et al. (2022)

Intra-household barriers

Learn: Addressing intra-household barriers to women's economic inclusion

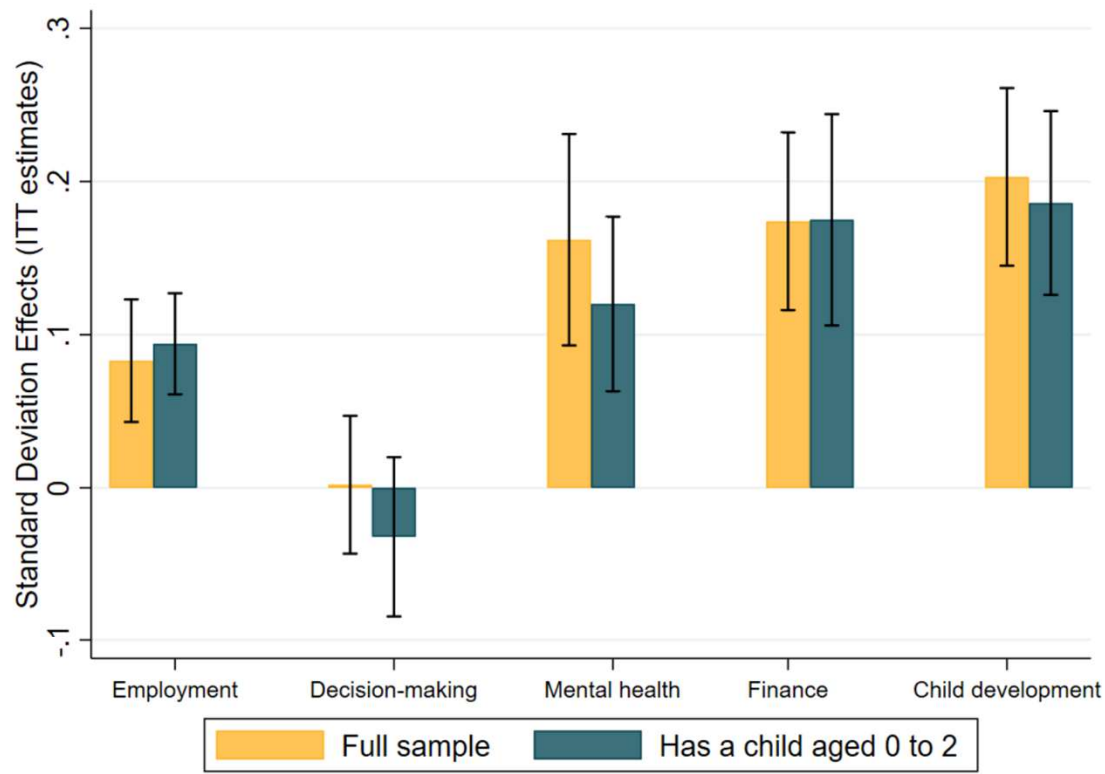
Public works programs in fragile contexts

- Londö public works program in the Central African Republic (Alik-Lagrange et al 2022)
 - Sustained **increase in earnings** (10%), food expenditure & productive assets **post-intervention**
 - Gender-differentiated response: **women** diversified income sources and **engaged more often in trading**, while men intensified their agricultural production
- Ebola Crisis Response Program in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Lopez-Avila and Buehren 2022)
 - Increased number of meals consumed per day & HH savings
 - **Women are more likely to be involved in off-farm business** activities

Results suggest that PWP in fragile states improved participants' livelihoods and helped women diversify economically — but what about caregiving norms and time constraints to participation?

Adopt/Adapt

Mobile crèches for labor-intensive public works in Burkina Faso



Ajayi, Dao, and Koussoubé (2022)

Evolve

Rural, community-based childcare in the DRC

- High take-up (73%, avg. use of 3 days/week)
- **Increases women's and men's engagement in commercial agriculture, and husband's self employment**
- **Yields increase** at household level and on plots managed by the targeted woman
- Targeted woman has higher self-reported happiness and **household income increases by \$38/month --- compared to cost of service \$16/month/child**



Donald & Vaillant (forthcoming)

Advancing the frontier

Addressing intra-household barriers to women's economic inclusion

Care

- What cost-effective measures can **expand the supply and demand of care services** to help women, men, and their children reap the welfare gains? [GIL Benin childcare study]

Engaging men

- Can complementary **measures to engage men** amplify the impact of economic inclusion interventions on women? [GIL/Trinity TIME studies in Mauritania and Malawi]
- To what extent can these interventions change norms and improve other dimensions of women's empowerment?

Norms

- Can **engaging community leaders** and members through --- information, persuasion, edutainment --- **shift norms** around women and girls' economic participation? [Niger ASP, GIL SWEDD study]
- Can economic inclusion interventions alter norms around the acceptability of women's work [GIL Nigeria FNLP study] and gender-based violence?
- What about **updating misperception of norms**? [GIL MozLand study]

Advancing the frontier



Other cross-cutting gender questions for economic inclusion interventions

- **Occupational segregation:**
 - How best can women **break out of sectoral productivity traps** (info, mentoring, role models) and into higher-value livelihoods?
- **Growth capital for firms and farms:**
 - Test innovative, scalable solutions to provide debt and equity to fill the “**missing middle**” financing gaps
- **Risk-reducing technologies and strategies for resilience:**
 - How to **mitigate risks** (including climate risks) and enhance resilience for women farmers, entrepreneurs, and workers?
- **Gender-based violence (GBV):**
 - What **scalable inclusion measures** (e.g., couples’ interventions, community-based approaches) are most effective **for reducing GBV**?

Thank you



<http://www.worldbank.org/africa/gil>