

# Tanzania



PHOTO: HILDA MBIZI

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy non-profit 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 575 leading academics to conduct over 650 evaluations in 51 countries. Future growth will be concentrated in focus countries, such as Tanzania, 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 Tanzania, 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 Tanzanians.

### EDUCATION

#### Grants for student enrollment plus teacher performance bonuses led to better learning outcomes.

Student learning levels across East Africa remain extremely low, despite more than a decade of major reforms and significant new investments in public education. Researchers evaluated the impact of sending grants directly to schools and paying teachers a performance-based bonus. They found that when delivered

together, grants and bonuses led to improved student learning outcomes.

### SOCIAL PROTECTION

#### Can a youth training and support program reduce unemployment?

Youth account for 60 percent of the unemployed in Africa. One approach to increasing employment among youth is to provide training and mentoring for young people to help them find jobs or start new businesses. IPA is evaluating the impact of a training and mentorship program with a robust long-term support component on Tanzanian youth's income, employment, entrepreneurial activities, and self-confidence.

### FINANCIAL INCLUSION

#### Can up-front incentives to save improve financial behavior?

Commitment savings accounts reward

**IPA TANZANIA**  
Since 2013

**FOCUS SECTORS**  
Education, Financial Inclusion, Gender, Health, Social Protection

**RESEARCH PROJECTS**  
4 Completed, 12 In Progress

**KEY PARTNERS**  
Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit Agency, International Growth Centre, Technoserve, Twaweza, World Bank

**KEY RESEARCHERS**  
Nathan Fiala (University of Connecticut), Don Green (Columbia University), Isaac Mbiti (University of Virginia), Melanie Morten (Stanford University), Philip Roessler (College of William and Mary)

users for reaching savings goals and penalize them for withdrawing early. Changing the design of these accounts to pay a year of interest up-front may encourage more people to take advantage of them. Researchers are studying the effect of an 'instant-bonus savings account' on savings levels, personal well-being, empowerment and agency among young women.

Learn more about **IPA-Tanzania** and find a full list of our studies here:  
[www.poverty-action.org/country/tanzania](http://www.poverty-action.org/country/tanzania)

## Better Programs & Policies

IPA evidence has already contributed to improving millions of lives. Now, with 15 years of evidence to build on, our programs are increasingly focusing on government and partner collaboration to translate evidence into better programs and policies.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

**IPA is partnering with the Dar Es Salaam Rapid Transit Agency (DART) to evaluate a large-scale public transit project.** Road congestion and urban sprawl are worsening in many African cities. Governments are investing in public transit infrastructure, but transit systems are often expensive and difficult to construct. In Dar es Salaam, IPA, along with researchers from Stanford University, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the World Bank, is examining the effect of a bus rapid transit (BRT) system—dedicated lanes for buses that run along existing roads—on travel patterns, employment, incomes, access to labor and goods markets, migration, and neighborhood amenities, among other outcomes. The results will inform the city of Dar es Salaam's transit policies.

### EDUCATION

**Research by IPA informed the Government of Tanzania's decision to send direct grants to schools.** Many governments provide funding to schools based on the number of students enrolled in an effort to improve learning outcomes. However, little evidence exists on the efficacy of these capitation grants. An IPA research team worked with the NGO Twaweza to investigate the impact of sending capitation grants directly to schools, performance-based incentives, and the combination of both. The study found increases in learning outcomes among children in schools with both. Program implementation demonstrated that sending money directly to schools is transparent, easy to implement, and increased learning resources at schools. This contributed to the Tanzanian government's decision to start sending capitation grants directly to schools in 2016.



## Our Future

IPA Tanzania is becoming a go-to resource for evidence-based insights for government, nonprofits, and the private sector. As we continue to expand our presence in Tanzania, we are focusing on two goals. They are to:

- » **Reinforce IPA's status as a known source of high-quality research.** We continue to bring our expertise in high-quality impact evaluations to Tanzania, providing the capacity to run rigorous evaluations across sectors. We work together with knowledgeable government and academic partners through the concept and design stage to ensure that the evidence provides rigorous, meaningful results for decision-makers.
- » **Partner with decision-makers to seek, generate, and apply evidence at scale to help the poor.** IPA will work together with our close partner, the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), to train policymakers on what kind of evidence is needed in which decisions, how to determine what evidence is rigorous, and how to use evidence to guide programs and policies. We seek to work together with Tanzanian and international researchers to both provide opportunities for local academics to build and apply their skills and to make our evidence more relevant to the local policy context. IPA also supports decision-makers in applying this evidence along the path to scale.

Building a world with **More Evidence** and **Less Poverty.**

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