

**GiveDirectly**

**Uganda Refugees Phase II: Results**

September 1st 2022

# Who we are

---

**GiveDirectly**

# GiveDirectly sends cash to those living in poverty with no strings attached

We're one of the **fastest -growing NGOs** focused on international issues

We're backed by **institutions, governments, corporates, and individuals** working to end poverty

**\$800M** Funds raised for recipients

**1.2M+** Recipients reached to date

**11** Countries in which we've operated

**19** Randomized controlled trials completed or ongoing



# Why cash?

---

**GiveDirectly**

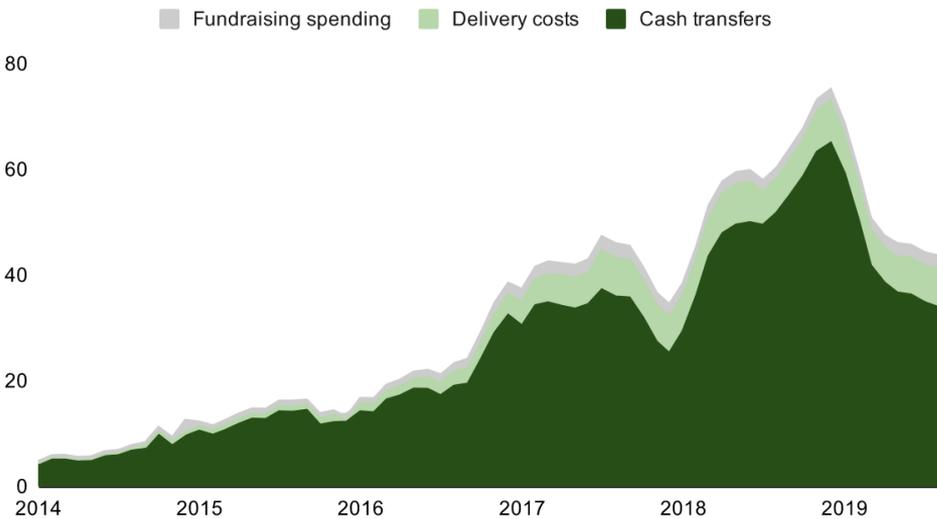
---

Cash transfers are widely recognized as one of the most  
**well-researched and proven approaches** to reducing  
poverty.

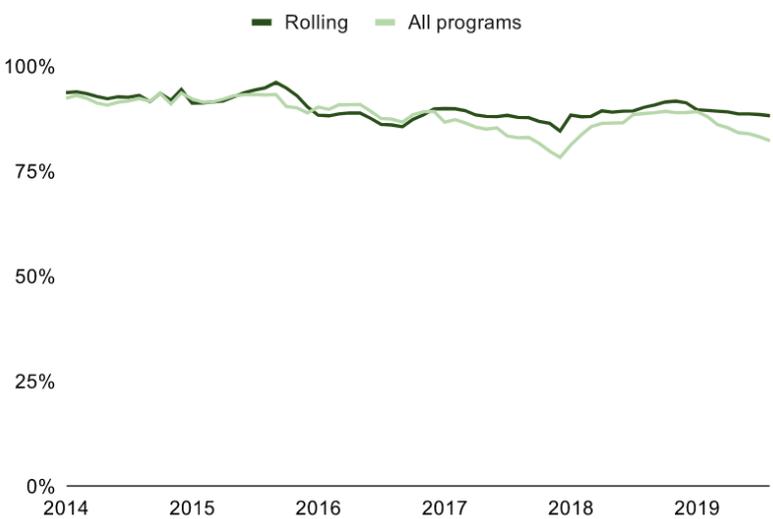
---

# Our programs are highly efficient, delivering more than \$0.91+ of every dollar raised directly to recipients

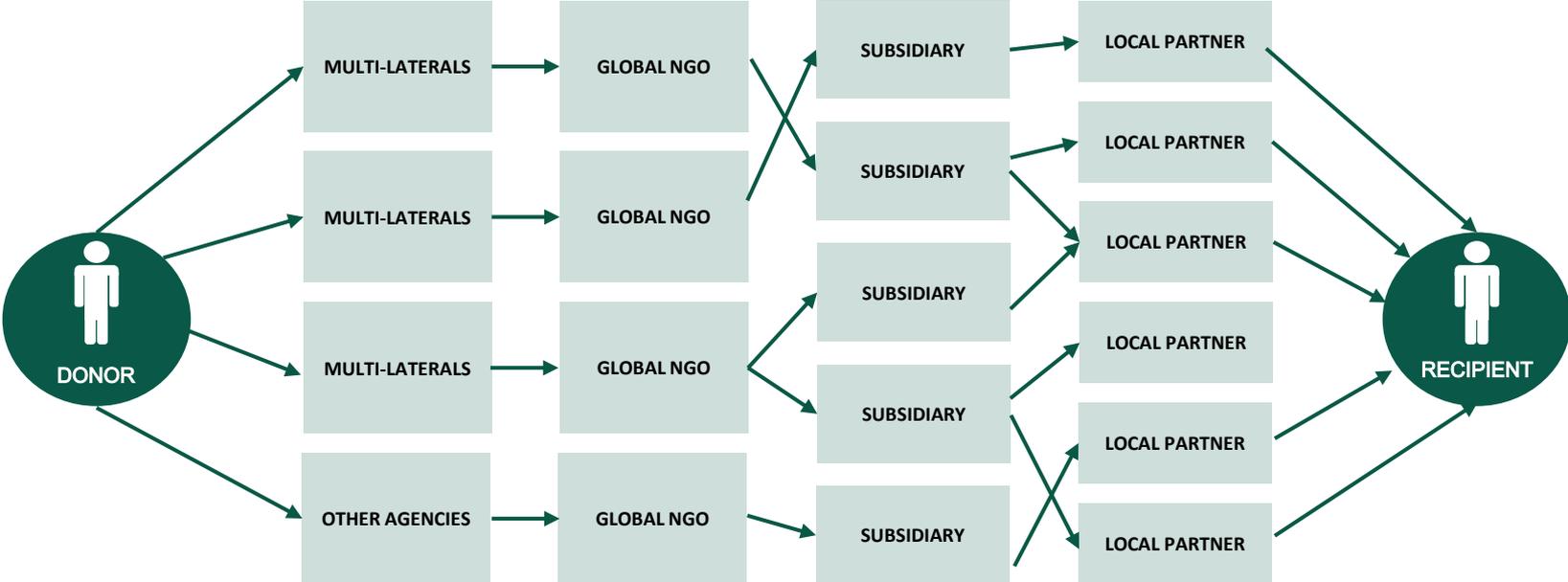
Annual Spending (\$M, 12 month rolling sum)



Efficiency



# Aid traditionally flows through a complex, heavily intermediated sector



Money & decision making power

# We let the people we're trying to help spend the budgets



Donor



Recipient

# Why unconditional cash?

- We prioritize recipient preferences over those of donors or ourselves
- Cash is fungible - in a recipient's words: "Not everybody wants a goat"
- Conditionality is costly to enforce and can exclude the most vulnerable members of a community
- Additionally:
  - Unconditional cash does not lead to increased spending on alcohol, tobacco or other temptation goods
  - Nor do people stop working - in fact transfers can aid employment

# Transfer size

## Why large cash transfers?

- Large lump sum transfers accelerate investment in productive assets, assisting recipients towards self-reliance
- It is in line with other well-researched GiveDirectly programs and world-wide programs like *Oportunidades* in Mexico and *Bolsa Familia* in Brazil
- Transfer size varies depending on intended outcomes

## Key Evidence

- Study published in a top economics journal by Princeton University researchers show large asset gains for \$1,000 over smaller transfers (\$300)
- The same study shows larger gains in psychological well-being for larger transfers compared to smaller ones
- More recent work shows that in Kenya, there is an economic multiplier of 2.6 for large transfers (\$1,000). This is true for people not receiving the transfer - they benefit too.

# Kiryandongo Refugee Camp

---

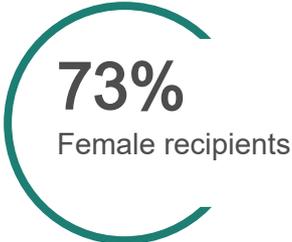
**GiveDirectly**

# Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement

- A pilot to examine the potential for providing larger lumpsum transfers to refugee communities.
- **Beneficiaries**  
~10,000 refugee households (HHs)  
~5,000 host community HHs
- **Transfers**  
\$1,000 lump sum transfers (disbursed in 3 installments)
- **Outcome of interest:** Test whether a large investment of unrestricted capital would allow refugees to begin rebuilding their lives and thrive in their adopted homes.
- **RCT** designed to test the impact of unconditional cash transfers in helping long-term refugees to become self-sufficient. Implementation began in June, 2019 in both refugee and host communities.



# Kiryandongo: Progress To Date as of August 24th 2022



# Data Collection and Methodology Recap

## Rigorous mixed -method evaluation

---

- **Aim:** examine impact of large lump sum cash transfers on refugee and host community households - specifically looking at indicators of progress towards self -reliance
- **Evaluation included :**
  - Randomized controlled trial - 1,090 refugee HHs
  - Qualitative study- 32 refugee and 21 host HHs
  - Baseline survey- Sep-Nov 2019, Phone midline July-Oct 2021, Endline survey- Feb-April 2022

## Process

---

- 9,000 households randomised into **24 cohorts** - via a public lottery which determined time of enrollment.
  - Approach supported by UNHCR and OPM, 85% of baseline respondents also thought is fairest approach
- HHs in **cohorts 1 and 2** receiving transfer- 'treatment group'
- Selection of HHs in **cohorts 17 -20-** 'control group'
- Excluded 1,000 HHs with persons of specific needs from study - received transfers first

## Primary Outcomes: Initial Findings (~2 years post transfer)



**Consumption:** Increased by **32.3 USD (11%) per month** compared to those not yet receiving their transfer - roughly the amount the average family spends on education each month. Consumption increases are primarily driven by an increase in food consumption.



**Assets :** Increased value of asset ownership by **1385.9 USD (60%)** compared to those not yet receiving their transfer - predominantly through investment in home construction or upgrading. Also increased land values, specifically for land in South Sudan



**Business Ownership and Revenue :** Business revenue increased by 14.3 USD (64%) more in non-treatment households. Non-agricultural business ownership went up by **8.6%** (pp increase) more than in the control group.

# Secondary Outcomes

## Data suggests

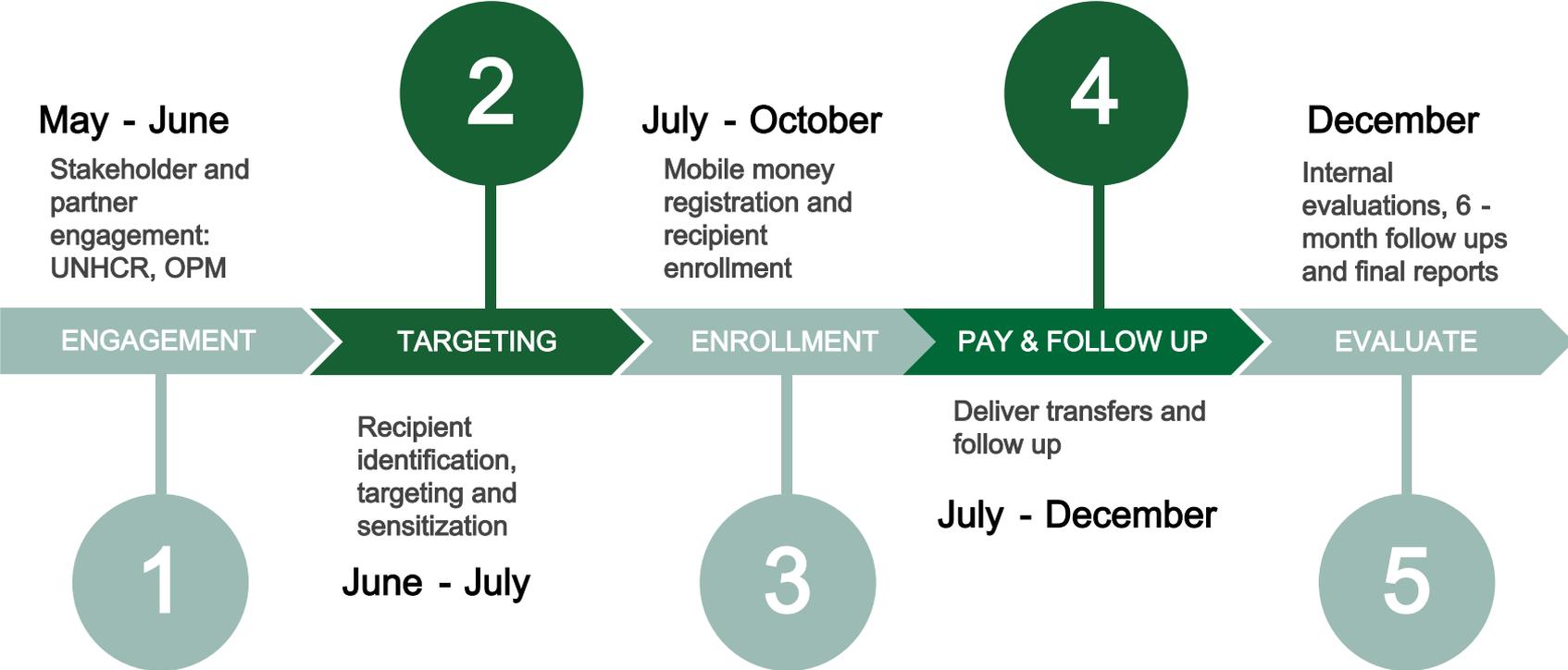
---

- Positive effects on **psychological well-being**
- **Increase in Refugee Self-Reliance Index** driven by better housing quality and fewer debts
- Both refugee and host communities reported **improvements in relations** between host communities and refugees
- Evidence of **substantial immediate impact** in both refugee and host community
- Recipients reported a **strong preference for receiving cash** over in-kind aid, although views varied on the phasing of transfers.
- Host households were positive about their long-term futures; refugee households were more circumspect.
- No statistically significant effect on: food security, migration, female empowerment (including girls' education), employment or household size

# What's next: Supporting Urban Refugees in Kawempe and Nakawa

- A pilot to examine the potential for providing larger transfers to urban refugee communities.
- **Beneficiaries**  
~1000 refugee households (HHs) registered as living in Kawempe and Nakawa
- **Transfers**  
\$750 lump sum transfers (disbursed in 2 installments)
- **Outcome of interest:** Improve economic opportunity and human development outcomes for urban refugees to recover from COVID-19 related economic shocks, test the operational feasibility of urban refugee projects and identify best practices

# Project Timeline



**Q&A**