

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



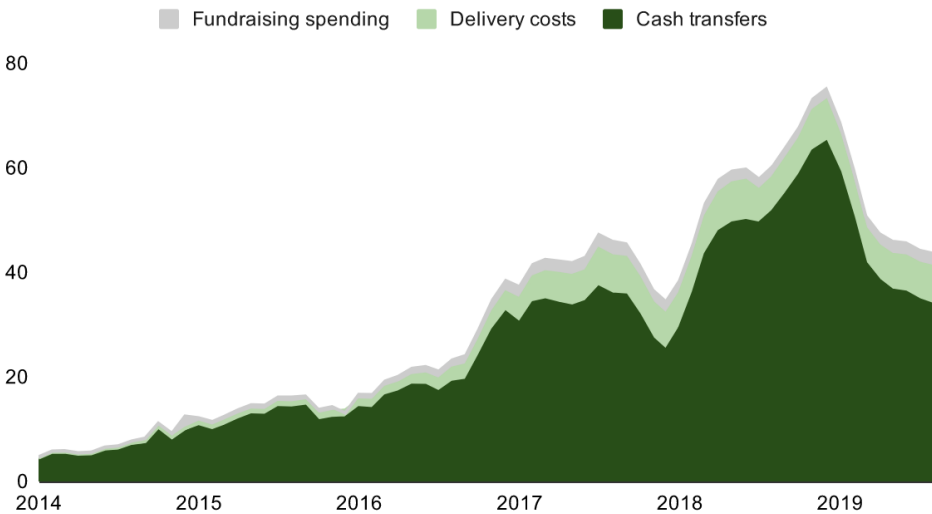
Why cash?

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

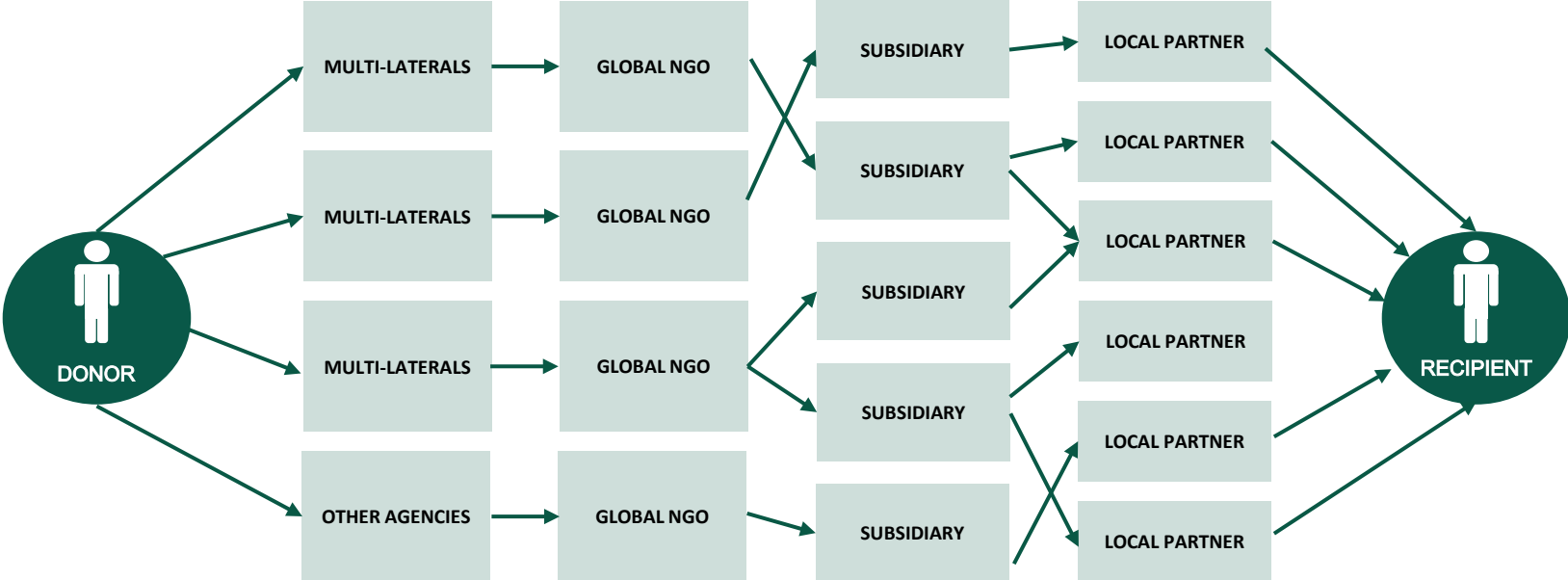
Annual Spending (\$M, 12 month rolling sum)



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

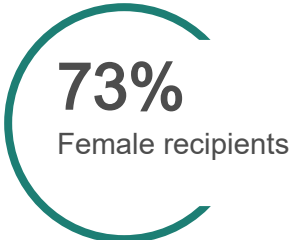
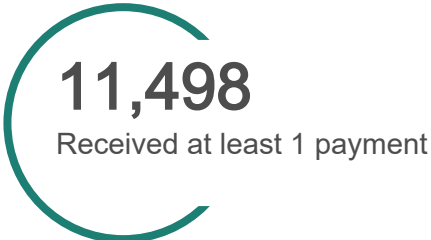
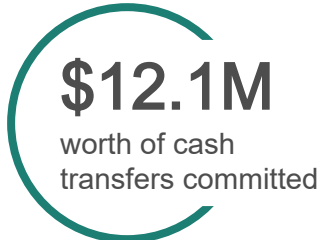
GiveDirectly

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

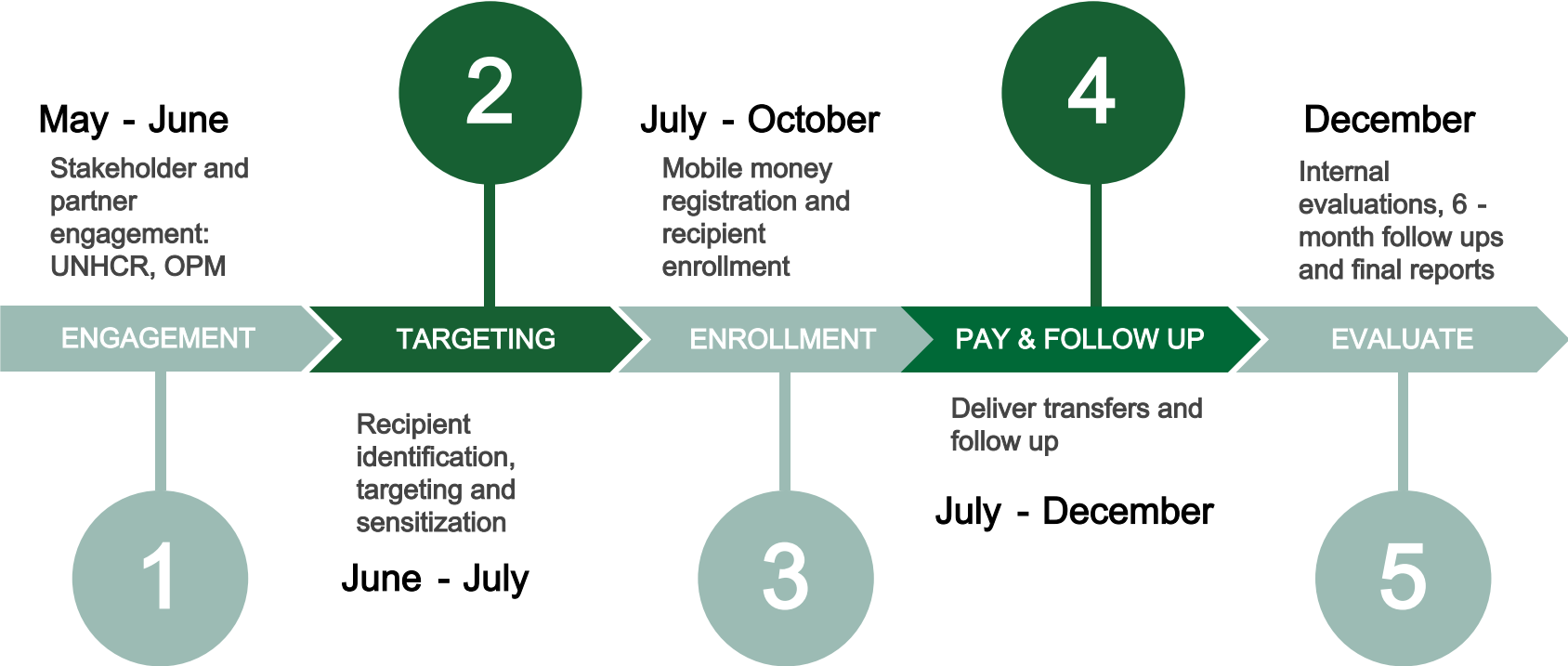
Data suggests

- 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