

EHAGL: SUMMARY OF LEARNING FROM IMPACT EVALUATIONS ON FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Randomized control trials and other forms of impact evaluation to test and improve the effectiveness of social programs are well established in the development field, and are being increasingly applied to [humanitarian settings](#)¹. In 2020, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) documented [25 published randomized evaluations](#) of forced displacement initiatives, with the largest number of them focused on the health sector and psychosocial support programs in particular². Today, there are an additional [53 randomized evaluations ongoing](#) of forced displacement programmes, of which 26 are found in East, Horn and Great Lakes of Africa region. These studies cover topics like protection (44%), livelihoods (38%), social cohesion (9%) and education (9%). The largest number took place in Uganda (58%), followed by Ethiopia (15%) and Somalia (15%).

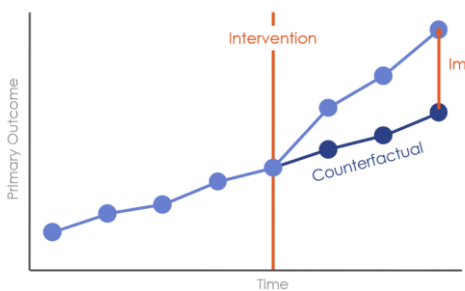
What do we mean by *impact*?

Impact is defined as a comparison between:

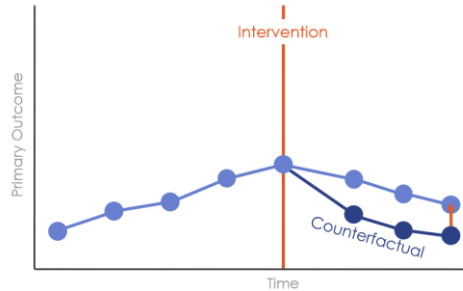
- (i) a given outcome some time after a program has been introduced, and
- (ii) the outcome at that same point in time had the program NOT been introduced - the “**counterfactual**”.

Really hard to create a counterfactual!

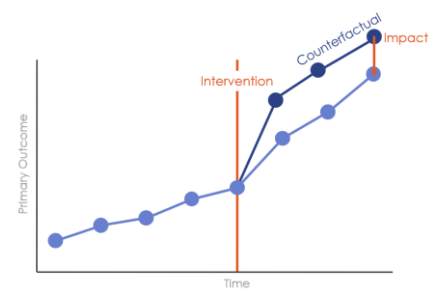
Case 1: Positive trajectory / Positive impact



Case 2: Negative trajectory / Positive impact



Case 3: Positive trajectory / Negative impact



¹ A number of organizations have been established to promote impact evaluation globally, including the [World Bank's Development Impact Evaluation](#), (DIME) Initiative, [Innovations for Poverty Action](#) (IPA), the [Jameel Poverty Action Lab](#) (JPAL) and the [International Initiative for Impact Evaluation](#) (3ie). The [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) and [International Organization for Migration](#) also have impact evaluation units or teams that regularly produce impact evaluations.

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/filling-forced-displacement-evidence-gap-taking-stock-world-refugee-day>

1. GiveDirectly unconditional cash transfers (UCT) – Kiryandongo Settlement, Uganda

Large cash transfers improved the economic and psychological well-being of refugee households nearly two years after the initial transfer, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian aid cuts.

Study	Description
<p>GiveDirectly - Uganda Endline Report: Unconditional cash transfers in Kiryandongo refugee settlement, Uganda</p> <p>IDinsight (2022)</p> <p>Objective: First-ever study of cash aid to improve self-reliance and overall well-being in a protracted refugee setting.</p>	<p>Location: Kiryandongo Settlement, Uganda</p> <p>Main Intervention: US\$1,000 (~UGX 3.6 million) mobile transfer to all households in the settlement (refugee and host) between February 2020-May 2022, phased in monthly cohorts over 24 months.</p> <p>Baseline, midline (10 months) and endline (19 months) surveys used to measure impacts.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Refugees in Kiryandongo used the 1,000 USD transfer to improve their houses, purchase land, and start businesses. ➤ Treatment households had 11% (32.3 USD above the control mean of 296.9 USD) higher monthly consumption at endline (19 months after initial transfer). ➤ Transfer recipients were also 8.6 percentage points more likely to own household businesses, and total monthly business revenue was 64% higher compared to control households (14.3 USD above the control mean of 22.3 USD). There was no change in agricultural productivity. ➤ Households used the transfer to invest in land and home improvements. At endline, recipient households had assets worth 60% (1,386 USD above the control mean of 2,286 USD) more than non-recipients. ➤ The GiveDirectly transfer aided refugees in improving their psychological well-being: a composite psychological well-being index was 0.28 standard deviations higher for recipients compared to non-recipients. Despite the increase, both the treatment and control groups show signs of depression and moderate stress. 	

2. Business grants or unconditional cash transfers (UCTs) for microenterprise ownership – Mogadishu and Hiran, Somalia

One-time business grants more effectively promote micro-enterprise ownership than repeated unconditional payments. However, larger grant sizes are needed to achieve long-term impact.

Study	Description
<p>Supporting Micro-enterprise in Humanitarian Programming: Impact Evaluation of Business Grants versus Unconditional Cash Transfer</p> <p>Arays A, Mohamed K.A, Elijah K, Munshi S. (2021)</p> <p>Objective: Study use of cash transfers to boost household incomes beyond the short-term through micro-enterprise start-up and growth in humanitarian setting, and to study cost-effectiveness of different grant amounts.</p>	<p>Location: Mogadishu and Hiran, Somalia</p> <p>Main Intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In each community, beneficiaries were divided into four groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ T1: \$250 (\$100 for HH in Hiran) in two monthly transfers (unconditional cash transfer) ○ T2: \$250 (\$100 for HH in Hiran) in one-off business grant ○ T3: \$500 in one-off business grant ○ T4: \$1,050 in one-off business grant ➤ Business grantees (T2-T4) received a 5-day business training conducted by a consultant for 1-2 hours per day.
<p>Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Giving the same amount of money as a lump-sum business grant results in higher likelihood of business ownership and income compared to UCT in the short run (3-4 months after the transfers). ➤ However, the impacts are larger and persist 3 years later only for those who received larger amount of grants (\$500 or \$1,000). ➤ In the long-term, both medium and large business grants realized similar profit margins, averaging \$20 per month. ➤ In terms of returns to investment, the \$500 grant is more cost-effective than than \$1000 grant. 	

3.

3. Fostering social cohesion and support for inclusive refugee policies through support to microentrepreneurs – Kampala, Uganda

When combined with awareness campaigns, aid-sharing through host community business grants can be an effective tool to create political support for inclusive refugee hosting.

Study	Description
<p>Can Aid Change Attitudes toward Refugees? Experimental Evidence from Microentrepreneurs in Urban Uganda</p> <p>Baseler T., Ginn T., Hakiza R., Ogude H. (2021)</p> <p>Objective: Study whether directly linking assistance to host communities with inclusive refugee policies can increase citizens' support for those policies.</p>	<p>Location: Microentrepreneurs in Kampala, Uganda</p> <p>Main Intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ T1: <u>In-Kind Grant Only</u>: An inexperienced business owner will be assisted by a member of NGO staff to purchase \$ 140 USD worth of capital of their choosing. ➤ T2: <u>Information Only</u>: NGO staff member will convey information about Uganda's national aid-sharing policy, NGO outreach to both refugees and Ugandans in Kampala, and personal stories of being a refugee. ➤ T3: <u>Grant and Information</u>: Business owners in this group received both the in-kind grant and the refugee-related information. The goal is for the business owner to associate the grant with the presence of refugees and their right to work. ➤ T4: <u>Mentorship</u>: Business owners randomly assigned to a mentor (experienced refugee or Ugandan business owner) with prior experience to help them develop their business. Mentors are matched to mentees based on criteria (industry, profit, years of experience, gender, location) to maintain a balance of characteristics. ➤ C: <u>Control Group</u>: No intervention.
<p style="text-align: center;">Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Providing business grant and information together (T3) substantially affects Ugandan's support for inclusive refugee hosting. Treated individuals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 percentage points (pp) more likely to express general support for hosting refugees, ○ 15 pp more likely to support allowing more refugees into Uganda, ○ 13 pp more likely to support refugees' right to work, ○ No significant effect on support for freedom of movement. ➤ Cash (T1) and information (T2) separately positively affect respondents' policy reference, but the effect sizes are lower than for the combined program (T3). ➤ Mentorship (T4) by a refugee or a Ugandan both significantly increase support for inclusive refugee policies, with no significant difference between a refugee and Ugandan mentorship. ➤ There is no evidence of an effect on business profit from any of the treatments <p style="text-align: center;">Policy Implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Refugee-focused organizations that share assistance with host communities could, for minimal additional cost, include narratives with their programming to increase awareness of aid sharing and the benefits of inclusive hosting. ➤ Governments considering adopting inclusive hosting policies could consider aid sharing—especially if combined with awareness campaigns—as a way to foster support for these policies. 	

4. Reducing violence against students in classroom settings – Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania

There is no evidence that peer-led behavioural intervention reduced physical violence from teachers towards primary or secondary school students in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp in Tanzania.

Study	Description
<p>The EmpaTeach intervention for reducing physical violence from teachers to students in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp: A cluster-randomised controlled trial</p> <p>Camilla Fabbri et al., (2021)</p> <p>Objective: test a brief school-based peer-led behavioral intervention – EmpaTeach – to reduce teachers’ use of physical and emotional violence against students in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania</p> <p>* EmpaTeach uses empathy-building exercises and group work to equip teachers with self-regulation, alternative discipline techniques, and classroom management strategies.</p>	<p>Location: 27 primary and secondary schools in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Tanzania</p> <p>Main interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ T1: Violence-prevention intervention (EmpaTeach) for teachers (14 schools, 600 teachers) ➤ C: Control group: No intervention (13 schools) <p>Outcomes of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Primary Outcome – Students’ self-reported experience of physical violence from teachers measured by a modified version of the ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool-Child Institutional ➤ Secondary Outcome – Students reports of emotional violence, depressive symptoms and school attendance
<p>Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevalence of past-week violence was not statistically different between schools that received the interventions and those who did not. ➤ No effect was detected on the secondary outcomes around mental health and school attendance either. ➤ Further research is needed to test what intervention components and delivery strategies can be effective to reduce school-based violence in humanitarian settings. <p>Limitations of study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small number of schools in the camp which limited the statistical power to detect differences between intervention and control groups. ➤ No assessment of test-retest reliability of outcome measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Interviewers were unmasked to intervention allocation due to the behavioral nature of the study – that is, it was impossible to hide from them which school received the intervention. 	