

Impacts of an Adolescent Cash Plus Intervention on Livelihood/Productive Activities, Education & Aspirations in Tanzania

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Background



Context

- ❖ Adolescents in Tanzania face myriads risk during the transition to adulthood. These include health-related risks, barriers to schooling, poverty, and lack of livelihood opportunities.

Ujana Salama Cash Plus Intervention for Healthy, Safe and Productive Transitions to Adulthood

- ❖ Leveraging Tanzania’s Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) and targeting adolescents with livelihoods and life skills training, mentoring, and linkages to adolescent-friendly health services.

What did we find?

- ❖ The intervention increased adolescents' having a business in operation, owning assets for the business, total sales (revenue & profit), livestock tending, and hours spent in economic activity and farm work for the household.
- ❖ A small decrease in school attendance after Round 3 was not sustained at Round 4, and there were no adverse impacts on schooling attainment.

Research Question

Does an adolescent cash plus intervention affect livelihoods and schooling outcomes?

Methods

Intervention areas

- ❖ Iringa and Mbeya regions (4 districts, 130 communities)

Target population

- ❖ Adolescents 14-19 years living in PSSN households at baseline (n=2,458)

Data and study design

- ❖ Cluster randomized controlled trial (cRCT)
- ❖ Two study arms (treatment arm receiving PSSN + adolescent cash plus and control arm receiving PSSN only)
- ❖ Baseline: April – June 2017, Midline: May-July 2018, Endline: May-July 2019; Post-intervention follow-up: January – March 2021

Estimation: ANCOVA models



Cash Intervention:

PSSN to households (bi-monthly cash transfer, livelihood enhancement & public works



Plus Intervention: Livelihoods & life skill training, mentoring, productive grant (80 USD) and linkages to health facilities



Outcomes: Economic activities, business in operation, livestock tending, farming, school attendance, aspirations, attitudes

Results

Aspirations and education

The intervention had a positive effect on entrepreneurial attitudes, self-esteem, and expectations to run a business.

No effects on aspirations related to education or category of occupation.

At Round 3, there were adverse effects on school attendance among older girls, but effects were not sustained at Round 4. There were no adverse effects on schooling attainment at any round.

Economic activities

The intervention increased adolescents’ having a business in operation, owning assets for the business, total sales (revenue & profits), livestock tending, and hours spent in economic activity and farm work for the household.

Many impacts sustained post-intervention (doing business, own assets, sales & profit, livestock tending, farming, hours in economic activities).

Conclusions

- ❖ The positive impacts on economic outcomes are encouraging considering adverse contextual economic factors (COVID-19 & PSSN payment delays) that happened between Rounds 3 and 4.
- ❖ Gender norms around division of labour remained unchanged; females still did almost all household. This constrains females’ potential for participation in paid economic activities.
- ❖ PSSN & complementary programming should strengthen linkages to vocational training & extension worker support for adolescents & youth in PSSN households.



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