



RESEARCH FACT SHEET:

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF

CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES AND POST TRAUMA SERVICES FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN UGANDA

BACKGROUND

In 2015 Isis WICCE partnered with Tilburg University, Mbarara University and Makerere University to conduct research with the aim of identifying the impact of social protection schemes, such as cash transfers on economic resilience in order to influence policy. The research is focused on populations with high levels of income fragility and trauma, seeking to understand the impact of trauma on their use of cash transfers. Women are a specific focus of this study due to their particular economic and mental health vulnerabilities. This study targeted districts affected by the 20-year war between the Lords Resistance Army and the Ugandan government in Northern Uganda including Kitgum, Lira, Soroti and Katakwi.



METHODOLOGY

In consultation with local leaders and district authorities, four (4) groups with a total of (470) research participants were identified. These included a group that received cash transfers, one that received support for trauma relief, a third one that received cash transfers and trauma relief as well as a control group. The research process involved two phases of data collection, trauma relief therapy and engaging with policy makers..

Following the first round of data collection, to create a stronger impact of the trauma relief variable, a tool was developed and administered to half the participants as a series of six self-help group sessions. The trauma support effort included narration, self-reflection and group support so individuals could recognize their problems and possibilities to reduce symptoms. This included exercises to address the worst symptoms of trauma with psycho-education, to enable participants to understand how trauma works physically in the brain.

For the second round of data collection, individually administered questionnaires translated into three local languages were used to measure the impact of the cash transfers and the trauma relief interventions. This included an impact of events scale to measure the effect of traumatic events on mental wellbeing; economic resilience scales to measure income and the sense of economic resilience; the Barrett tool to measure underlying values and the women's empowerment scale to measure women's sense of self esteem. The research also included short open interviews to understand the results more deeply along with observation.



KEY FINDINGS

The first round of collected data revealed that

Cash transfers and other social protection schemes had a small but significant impact on the economic resilience of women.

The trauma relief intervention offered in group format with a focus on narration and mutual support had a larger impact on economic resilience than cash transfers.

The combination of cash transfers and trauma relief has the best most significant impact on economic resilience.

The control group showed no change and women's empowerment appeared statistically as an intervening variable.

The second trauma relief intervention was successful as it resulted in increased self-esteem, social participation, conflict resolution skills and coaching of community members as well as decreased domestic violence and community conflict.

With the second round of data collection completed, the statistical analysis will seek to determine whether or not the trauma relief intervention together with the social protection scheme have had the desired effect on economic resilience. Final results will be published in June 2017.



RESEARCH TEAM

Researchers, statistical back up and research implementation was conducted by Mbarara University led by Dr Primrose Nakazibwe (Team Leader) under the leadership of Dr Viola Nyakota;

Tilburg University led by Prof Dr Mirjam van Reisen (Principal Investigator) and researchers under leadership of Dr. Stokmans;

Makerere University (led by Associate Professor Josephine Ahikire) and

Isis-WICCE (represented by Juliet Were and Suzan Nkinzi).

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