

RIDIE Study Export - Public Fields

Submitted By: Rachel Proefke, raproefke@gmail.com

General

Study Overview

Title

Components and Variants of an Ultra-Poor Graduation Program in Uganda

Change History

Date	Value
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06/11/2015	"Cash or Cash-Plus" Components and Variants of an Ultra-Poor Microenterprise Program in Uganda
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Study ID

RIDIE-STUDY-ID-52bb3799ccf6a

Initial Registration Date

12/08/2013

Last Update Date

09/25/2015

Status

What is the status of your study?

Ongoing

Location(s)

Where is the intervention or study occurring? (You may select multiple countries.)

Uganda

Abstract

Describe your study in non-technical language. This abstract will be publicly visible to people who search the registry even before the study is complete, so enter only what you are comfortable sharing at this time.

In this randomized controlled trial, we seek to assess the impact of components and variants of a group-based graduation program for rural ultra-poor Ugandans. The graduation program is comprised of the following components: (i) skills training, (ii) cash grants to start three-

member businesses, (iii) business mentorship, and (iv) savings groups. The impact of Village Enterprise's four-component program will be established using control clusters as well as within-cluster controls. In addition, we will evaluate components and possible variants of Village Enterprise's program by collecting impact data on alternative treatment arms involving: (i) the full program minus the formation of business savings groups; (ii) unconditional cash transfers; and (iii) unconditional cash transfers plus an intervention that attempts to achieve improved development outcomes through behavioral design. More limited impact data will be collected on further components and variants of Village Enterprise's program for operational research purposes.

Change History

Date	Value
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06/26/2015	In this randomized controlled trial, we seek to assess the impact of components and variants of a group-based graduation program for rural ultra-poor Ugandans. The graduation program is comprised of the following components: (i) skills training, (ii) cash grants to start three-member businesses, (iii) business mentorship, and (iv) savings group formation. The impact of Village Enterprise's four-component program will be established using control clusters as well as within-cluster controls. We will also evaluate components and possible variants of Village Enterprise's program by collecting impact data on alternative treatment arms involving: (i) the full program minus the formation of business savings groups; (ii) unconditional cash transfers; and (iii) unconditional cash transfers plus an intervention that attempts encourage appropriate investments through behavioral design. More limited impact data will be collected on further components and variants of Village Enterprise's program for operational research purposes.
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06/11/2015	In this randomized controlled trial, we seek to assess the impact of components and variants of a group-based microenterprise program for rural ultra-poor Ugandans. The microenterprise program is comprised of the following components: (i) skills training, (ii) cash grants to start three-member businesses, (iii) business mentorship, and (iv) savings groups. The impact of Village Enterprise's four-component program is established using control clusters as well as within-cluster controls. In addition, we will evaluate components and possible variants of Village Enterprise's program by collecting impact data on alternative treatment arms involving: (i) the full program minus the formation of business savings groups; (ii) unconditional cash transfers; and (iii) unconditional cash transfers plus an intervention that attempts to achieve improved development outcomes through behavioral design. More limited impact data will be collected on further variants and components of Village Enterprise's program for operations research purposes.
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Categories

Choose one or more categories that describe your study.

Private Sector Development

Social Protection

Other

Change History

Date	Value
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06/26/2015	Agriculture and Rural Development, Private Sector Development, Social Protection, Other
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Additional Keywords

Additional descriptive terms for the study, if any. (Use commas to separate terms.)

Ultra-poor, graduation, cash transfers, microenterprise, entrepreneurship, scarcity, behavioral design, aspirations, self-affirmation

Change History

Date	Value
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06/11/2015	Ultra-poor, unconditional cash transfers, microenterprise, entrepreneurship, training, scarcity, behavioral design, savings groups, mentoring
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Secondary ID Number(s)

To help with database searches and to avoid duplication, enter any ID numbers provided by funders (e.g., grant number) as well as any ID numbers provided by other registries (clinicaltrials.gov, ISRCT, etc.). For each ID number, include the organization that assigned it.

Principal Investigator(s)

Name of First PI

Sulaiman M, Proefke R, Sedlmayr R, Shah A

Change History

Date	Value
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09/25/2015	Sulaiman M, Proefke R, Zhao J, Shah A, Sedlmayr R
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Affiliation

BRAC Research and Evaluation Unit; University of Oxford; University of Chicago

Change History

Date	Value
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09/25/2015	BRAC Research and Evaluation Unit; University of British Columbia; University of Chicago; University of Oxford
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07/09/2015	BRAC Research and Evaluation Unit; University of British Columbia; University of Chicago
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Name of Second PI

Affiliation

Research Partner

Name of Partner Institution

If you are collaborating with another organization to perform this research (including organizations in the study country), provide the organization's name.

Innovations for Poverty Action, Uganda

Change History

Date	Value
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07/09/2015 Village Enterprise and Innovations for Poverty Action, Uganda

06/11/2015 Village Enterprise

Type of Organization

What type of institution is your research partner?

NGO-international

Website

Provide the web address (URL) of your research partner if it has one.

<https://www.poverty-action.org/uganda>

Change History

Date	Value
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07/09/2015	http://villageenterprise.org/ and https://www.poverty-action.org/uganda
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06/11/2015	http://villageenterprise.org/
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Location

Indicate the country where your research partner is located.

Uganda

Intervention

Intervention Overview

Intervention

Describe the intervention or program being evaluated in this study. Be sure to indicate the objectives and expected beneficiaries. Do not discuss the evaluation here, only the intervention. (Include only details of the program that can be made public at this time.)

The intended beneficiaries in this study are poor rural households identified through a two-step targeting process: (i) a participatory wealth ranking, and (ii) the administration of the Uganda Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI) scorecard to the household with additional inclusion and exclusion criteria adapted to context. The following treatment variants will be evaluated: A. The VE microenterprise program, comprised of: (i) business and financial skills training; (ii) two installments of cash transfers equivalent to 150 USD in total per three-member business group; (iii) business mentorship; and (iv) the formation of business savings groups. B. The VE microenterprise program minus component (iv). C. Unconditional cash transfers, equivalent UGX to 130 USD per household, representing the cash equivalent of the VE microenterprise program costs per household, less 7.4% for targeting and delivery. D. Cash transfers equivalent to C, plus a behavioral intervention which will incorporate motivational, goal-setting; and plan-making activities; affirmation exercises; instruction in a mental accounting tool; and facilitation in developing reminders.

Change History

Date	Value
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|------------|--|
| 07/09/2015 | The intended beneficiaries in this study are poor rural households identified through a two-step targeting process: (i) a participatory wealth ranking, and (ii) the administration of the Uganda Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI) scorecard to the household with additional inclusion and exclusion criteria adapted to context. The following treatment variants will be evaluated: A. The VE microenterprise program, comprised of: (i) business and financial skills training;(ii) two installments of cash transfers equivalent to 150 USD in total per three-member business group; (iii) business mentorship; and (iv) the formation of business savings groups. B. The VE microenterprise program minus component (iv). C. Unconditional cash transfers, equivalent UGX to 130 USD per household, representing the cash equivalent of the VE microenterprise program costs per household, less 7.4% for targeting and delivery. D. Cash transfers equivalent to C, plus a behavioral intervention which will incorporate motivational, goal-setting; and plan-making activities; affirmation exercises; instruction in a mental accounting tool; and facilitation in developing reminders. |
| 06/11/2015 | The intended beneficiaries in this study are poor rural households identified through a two-step targeting process: (i) a participatory wealth ranking, and (ii) the administration of the Uganda Progress out of Poverty Index (PPI) scorecard to the household. We are evaluating the following treatment variants: A. The VE microenterprise program, comprised of: (i) business and financial skills training, and the formation of business groups; (ii) two installments of cash transfers per business group - the first of which is the UGX equivalent to 100 USD and the second to 50 USD; (iii) business mentorship; and (iv) the formation of business savings groups. B. The VE microenterprise program minus component (iv). C. Unconditional cash transfers, equivalent UGX to 130 USD per household, representing the cash equivalent of the VE microenterprise program costs per household, less 7.4% for targeting and delivery. D. Cash transfers equivalent to C, plus a behavioral intervention which will likely incorporate motivation, goal-setting and plan-making activities, affirmation exercises, instruction in a mental accounting tool, and facilitation in developing reminders. |

Treatment Arms

Does this intervention or program have multiple treatment arms or program types under evaluation?

Yes

Implementing Agency Name of Organization

Who is carrying out the intervention or program? (Provide the name of the organization.)

Village Enterprise

Type of Organization

NGO (International)

Intervention Timing Intervention Timeline

Has the intervention or program already started? (Answer yes if the intervention has started, meaning the planned treatment has begun, and is either still in process or completed.)

Yes

Start Date

When did the intervention or program begin? (If not yet started, provide estimated date.)

12/09/2013

End Date

When did the intervention or program end? (If not yet completed, provide estimated date. If this is to be an ongoing program, leave the field blank.)

09/12/2015

Change History

Date	Value
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06/11/2015	08/29/2015
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Evaluation Method

Evaluation Method Overview

Primary (or First) Evaluation Method

What is the main methodological approach you will use to estimate the causal impacts of the intervention or program? (If more than one, enter the first here. You will have the opportunity to enter a second method later.)

Randomized control trial

Other Method

Please describe your method that was not listed in the choices above.

Additional Evaluation Method (If Any)

Other Method

Please describe your method that was not listed in the choices above.

Method Details

Details of Evaluation Approach

Please provide details of your methodological approach(es).

Because of the two-level randomization (both between and within villages), two control measures are available - both control clusters and within-cluster controls. We currently expect to compare treatment observations within-cluster controls and to use control clusters to estimate spill-over effects.

Change History

Date	Value
06/26/2015	Because of the two-level randomization (both between and within villages), two control measures are available - both control clusters and within-cluster controls. We currently expect to compare treatment observations within-cluster controls, and use control clusters to estimate spill-over effects. Further details may be available in a future pre-analysis plan.

Outcomes (Endpoints)

What are the outcome variables (endpoints) of interest in this evaluation? (You may distinguish primary and secondary outcomes as well as final and intermediate outcomes. If you do, indicate to which category each outcome belongs. See help text for definitions.)

The primary outcome variables are: household per-capita consumption, employment, income, and assets, as well as respondent subjective wellbeing and savings and credit practices. The secondary outcome variables include: number of household income sources, household food security as measured by the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS), household dietary diversity as measured by the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), use of health and educational services, school attendance, grade progression, the locus of intra-household decision-making, and respondent cognitive performance (second and third

cohorts). Further, we will aim to explore the impact on social capital, household fertility, child mortality, and domestic violence.

Change History

Date	Value
07/09/2015	The primary outcome variables are: household per-capita consumption, employment, income, and assets, as well as respondent subjective wellbeing and savings and credit practices. The secondary outcome variables include: number of household income sources, household food security as measured by the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS), household dietary diversity as measured by the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), use of health and educational services, school attendance, grade progression, and the locus of intra-household decision-making. Further, we will attempt to evaluate the impact of the intervention on cognitive outcomes in the second and third of the three intervention cohorts.
07/09/2015	The primary outcome variables are: household per-capita consumption, employment, income, and assets, as well as respondent subjective wellbeing and savings and credit practices. The secondary outcome variables include: number of household income sources, household food security measured by the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS), household dietary diversity measured by the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), use of health and educational services, school attendance, grade progression, and the gendered locus of intra-household decision-making. Further, we will attempt to evaluate the impact of the intervention on cognitive outcomes in the second and third of the three intervention cohorts.
06/11/2015	The primary outcome variables are: household employment and self-employment, household income, respondent savings and credit, household assets, household consumption expenditures, subjective wellbeing, and PPI score. The secondary outcome variables include: household food security measured by the Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS), household dietary diversity measured by the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS), healthcare access, child nutritional status measured by mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) and weight-for-age, and child school enrollment, attendance, and grade progression. The study will also look at the impact on respondent time allocation and intra-household decision-making. Further, we will attempt to evaluate the impact of the intervention on cognitive outcomes in the second and third waves of the intervention (early and mid-2015). However, this analysis is more exploratory. As of December 2013, we have not yet developed a cognitive test that is adequate for the setting at hand.

Measurement

If some of your outcomes will be constructed (e.g., "satisfaction with services", "empowerment", etc.), describe how the outcomes will be constructed from the main variables.

Minor edits have been made to the data collection tool between the trial registration and the initiation of the baseline. Measures used in the analyses can be inferred from the data collection tools, which will be public.

Change History

Date	Value
07/09/2015	Minor edits have been made to the data collection tool between the trial registration and the initiation of the baseline. Measures used in the analyses can be directly gauged from the data collection tools, which will be public.
06/11/2015	Employment: income activities done in the last week or to be done in the next month, seasonal agricultural self-employment, and annual livestock sales Household income: combined average monthly income of all income activities A household asset index: constructed based on baseline asset <input type="checkbox"/> electronics, livestock, furniture/cookware, agricultural tools, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> data and land ownership Household consumption per capita: (i) weekly caloric intake, (ii) monthly consumption of semi-durable goods/recurrent service expenditures (fuel and water costs, household products,

transportation fares, etc.), and (iii) annual consumption of durable goods/infrequent service expenditures (education/health expenses, clothing/ footwear purchases, fees/taxes, ceremonial expenses, etc.) [Total household consumption of temptation goods/services is considered.] Subjective wellbeing: self-reported life satisfaction, overall happiness, and perceived economic status comparative to neighbors Poverty data: uses the Uganda PPI scorecard The cognitive test has not yet been finalized, but is expected to include (i) Ravens tests, (ii) Stroup tasks, and (iii) a numerical series memorization exercise.

Unit of Analysis

What is the main unit of analysis for the evaluation?

Primary: households. Secondary: clusters.

Hypotheses

What specific hypotheses do you plan to test with the outcome variables specified above (or other outcomes)? (You may distinguish primary and secondary hypotheses if you like.)

Primary: 1. VE's program stimulates economic activity, leading to the creation of income-generating activities that create financial gains that are sustained over at least two years. 2. VE's businesses reduce household poverty, as measured by income, assets, and consumption. 3. VE's program increases subjective wellbeing. 4. Savings groups enhance borrowing and saving but do not increase household income and assets. 5. Cost-equivalent cash transfers alone have financial returns (i.e., an impact on income as well as assets and consumption), but this impact is lower than that of the VE program. 6. Cost-equivalent cash transfers create larger short-term, but smaller long-term, consumption benefits than the VE program. 8. Adding a behavioral design component improves the financial returns of cash transfers. 9. Poverty reduction improves cognitive performance. Secondary, for operations research purposes: 1. VE's BIAB program stimulates economic activity more than VE's standard graduation program, resulting in larger reductions in household poverty. 2. VE's SMART increases the profitability of income-generating activities.

Change History

Date	Value
07/09/2015	Primary: 1. VE's program stimulates economic activity, leading to the creation of income-generating activities that generate financial returns that are sustained over at least two years. 2. VE's businesses reduce household poverty, as measured by income, assets, and consumption. 3. VE's program increases subjective wellbeing. 4. Savings groups enhance financial market participation but do not increase household income and assets. 5. Cost-equivalent cash transfers alone have financial returns (i.e., an impact on income as well as assets and consumption), but this impact is lower than that of the VE program. 6. Cost-equivalent cash transfers create larger short-term, but smaller long-term, consumption benefits than the VE program. 8. Adding a behavioral design component improves the financial returns of cash transfers. 9. Poverty reduction improves cognitive performance. Secondary, for operations research purposes: 1. VE's BIAB program stimulates economic activity more than VE's standard graduation program, resulting in larger reductions in household poverty. 2. VE's SMART increases the profitability of income-generating activities.
06/11/2015	Primary: 1. VE's program stimulates economic activity, leading to the creation of income-generating activities that generate financial returns that are sustained over at least two years. 2. VE's businesses reduce household poverty. 3. VE's program increases subjective wellbeing. 4. VE's program is more effective in delivering on key outcomes in the presence of a savings group. 5. Cash transfers reduce household poverty. 6. Cost-equivalent cash transfers generate lower financial returns than the VE program. 7. Cost-equivalent cash transfers create larger short-term

and smaller long-term consumption benefits than the VE program. 8. Adding a behavioral design component improves the financial returns of cash transfers. Provided that an adequate cognitive test can be finalized: 9. Improving incomes improves cognitive performance. Secondary: 1. VE's BIAB program stimulates economic activity more than VE's standard microenterprise program, resulting in larger reductions in household poverty. 2. VE's SMART increases the profitability of income-generating activities.

Unit of Intervention or Assignment

Unit of assignment for receipt of the intervention or program. For experiments, the unit of randomization. (For example, individuals, schools, clinics, firms, etc.)

This is a two-level randomization, whereby villages are assigned to treatment arms, and households to treatment groups. Households are the primary unit of analysis, but both will be analyzed.

Number of Clusters in Sample

If the intervention or program is to be administered by cluster or group (e.g., schools, villages), what is the (expected) number of groups or clusters in the analysis?

The study will involve 138 village clusters.

Number of Individuals in Sample

What is the (expected) number of individual observations (e.g., of students, households, enterprises) in the sample?

The study will involve 6,678 households.

Change History

Date	Value
07/09/2015	The study will involve 6, 678 households.
06/11/2015	The study will involve 6,204 households.

Size of Treatment, Control, or Comparison Subsamples

What is the (expected) number of observations in treatment and control or comparison subsamples (i.e., those receiving the intervention and those not receiving it)? (If the intervention or program is to be administered by cluster or group, please give the number of groups, not individuals, in each subsample.)

1,080 (control clusters); A. 1,260 treatment (T) and 1,080 control (C); B. 840 T, 720 C; 504 C and 252 each cash only (C.) and cash plus behavior (D.); E.210 T, 180 C; F. 300 treatment

Change History

Date	Value
07/09/2015	1080 (control clusters); A. 1260 treatment (T) and 1080 control (C); B. 840 T, 720 C; 504 C and 252 each cash only (C.) and cash plus behavior (D.); E.210 T, 180 C; F. 300 treatment
06/11/2015	1080 (control clusters); A. 1080 each treatment/control (T/C); B. 720 each T/C; C. 432 control 216 cash, and D. 216 cash plus behavior; E.180 each T/C; F. 300 treatment

Supplementary Files

Analysis Plan

If you have a pre-analysis plan to upload, please do so here. (Note that a pre-analysis plan is a detailed outline of the analysis plan written in advance of seeing the data which may specify hypotheses to be tested, variable construction, equations to be estimated, controls to be used, and other aspects of the analysis. See help text for further information. You may select to have the plan kept private until study completion or another date of your choosing.)

Other Documents

Do you have any other documents outlining what you plan to do in this study that you are willing to upload (e.g., a proposal or IRB document)? (You may select to have the documents kept private until study completion or another date of your choosing.)

Data

Outcomes Data

Description

Briefly describe the data set that will be used to measure outcomes. (For example, this could be a household survey, school or health facility survey, administrative data, etc. If there is more than one such data source, please describe the most important one.)

Data will be collected at three points via a household survey: (i) a baseline survey prior to intervention; (ii) a midline survey; and (iii) an endline survey after intervention. In addition, cognitive data (pre- and post-disbursement) will be available for selected participants of the second and third study cohorts.

Change History

Date	Value
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06/11/2015	Data will be collected at three points via a household survey: (i) a baseline survey prior to intervention; (ii) a midline survey during intervention; and (iii) an endline survey after intervention. Village Enterprise's program is delivered in three cycles every year with no alterations to content. Uptake for the study will be taken at each of these cycles. Therefore, there will be three rounds of data collection each for (i), (ii), and (iii).
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Data Collection Status

Have these data already been collected, whether by you or someone else? (This refers to data collected after the intervention was implemented, not baseline data.)

No

Survey Name

Name of the survey or data set.

Previous Use of the Data

Has this data set been used before by you or others for analysis, including for unrelated research?

Data Access

Is this a restricted access data set?

Data Status

Have you obtained the data?

Data Approval Process

Briefly describe the approval process.

Approval Status

Have you obtained approval and/or the data?

Treatment Assignment Data Participation or Assignment Information

Does (or will) the above outcomes data also contain information on the treatment assignment or program participation, i.e., which units received the intervention or participated in the program?

Yes

Description

What kind of data will you use for information on treatment assignment or program participation, i.e., which units received the intervention or participated in the program? Examples include administrative data, household survey, etc. (In some cases, there may be no specific data set. For example, data might simply be common knowledge that a program was implemented in a particular village. This type of information can be treated as a data set.)

Data Status

Do these data already exist?

Previous Use of the Data

Has this data set been used before by you or others for analysis, including for unrelated research?

Data Access

Is this a restricted access data set?

Data Obtainment Status

Have you obtained the data?

Data Approval Process

Briefly describe the approval process.

Approval Status

Have you obtained approval and/or the data?

Data Analysis Data Analysis Status

Have you started analysis of the data?

Study Materials

Upload Study Materials

It is helpful for other researchers to be able to see survey instruments used in prior studies. Are you interested in uploading or providing links(s) to the instrument(s) or any other study information at this time? (You will also be able to do so at a later date, including at study completion.) If so, upload documents or provide links to instruments, other websites, or documents related to your study that you are willing to share, and describe each item.

Registration Category

Registration Category

Based on the information you have provided, we have classified your registration as follows.

Prospective, Category 1: Data for measuring impacts have not been collected

Completion

Completion Overview

Intervention Completion Date

When was the intervention or program completed? If this is an ongoing program, leave the date blank.

Data Collection Completion Date

When was data collection on outcomes completed?

Unit of Analysis

What was the main unit of analysis for the evaluation?

Clusters in Final Sample

If the intervention involved clusters or groups as the unit of randomization or program assignment, please indicate the final number of clusters or groups in the sample used in the analysis.

Total Observations in Final Sample

For estimating primary program impacts, what was the total number of individual observations used in the analysis (including program recipients and controls or comparisons)?

Size of Treatment, Control, or Comparison Subsamples

What is the size of each treatment and control or comparison subsample in the main analysis? (If the analysis is at the cluster or group level, please give the number of groups, not individuals, in each subsample.)

Findings

Preliminary Report

Is there a report on the results?

Preliminary Report URL

Provide a link to the report if available.

Summary of Findings

Summarize your results. (Copy and paste a report abstract or executive summary as appropriate. Highlight the results for the key outcomes and hypotheses you outlined when registering.)

Paper

Are there any published studies based on this evaluation?

Paper Summary

Provide titles and brief summaries of the studies.

Paper Citation

Enter the citations.

Data Availability

Data Availability (Primary Data)

Is the data set you used available for other researchers (whether access is free or restricted), or will it be in the future?

Date of Data Availability

When will the data be available?

Data URL or Contact

Enter a link to the data set, if available, or the name and email of a contact person for access.

Access procedure

If the data are or will be available only on a restricted basis, please describe the procedure to apply for the data.

Other Materials

Survey

Can you share the survey questionnaire(s) you used (if not previously made publicly available)?

Survey Instrument Links or Contact

Provide the link to the survey instrument(s) or describe how to obtain them.

Program Files

Are program files (e.g., Stata .do files) available for public distribution?

Program Files Links or Contact

If yes, please provide a link to the files or the name and email of a contact person for access.

External Link

Please provide links to any other related websites, documents, etc.

External Link Description

Describe the above links.

Description of Changes

Please add any comments you would like to make on changes in this project between the initial registration and the reporting of the results (e.g., changes in evaluation method, sample size, hypotheses, etc.).

Study Stopped

Date

When was the study stopped?

Reason

Why was the study stopped?