About the Government Outcomes Lab (GO Lab)

Established in 2016

Partnership between UK Government & University of Oxford

We investigate government's role in unlocking fruitful **cross-sector partnerships to improve social outcomes**

Welcome to the eleventh session of the Engaging with Evidence series

An open platform for policymakers, practitioners and researchers around the world to engage with key findings from the latest research and evaluation work in the field

- Distillation of key research findings
- Practical insights from practitioners across different sectors and fields
- Honest and constructive dialogue

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Ecosystem readiness for outcomes-based partnerships: key conditions, capacities and characteristics

| ONLINE EVENT | 6 APRIL 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (BST) | 🕐 Set my timezone |

For this Engaging with Evidence session, we will explore the conditions and competencies that enable successful delivery of outcomes-based partnerships.

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GOVERNMENT OUTCOMES LAB

BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT | UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

In today's session:
PART 1
I.   Results and learnings from the Village Enterprise Development Impact Bond
PART 2
Panel discussion on three main themes:
I.   Learnings from applying an impact bond model to a poverty alleviation intervention
II. Adaptation to COVID-19
III. Practical considerations for policymakers and practitioners

Speakers

Charlie Morgan
UK Government

Douglas Emeott
Instiglio

Mara Airoldi
Government Outcomes Lab

Brian Boland
Delta Fund

Frida Njogu-Ndongwe
IDinsight

Christy Lazicky
Causal Design

Winfred Kananu Ntonjira
IDinsight

Zach Hoins
Village Enterprise

Moderators

Tanyah Hameed
Government Outcomes Lab

Laura Bonsaver
Government Outcomes Lab

IDinsight

Village Enterprise DIB Evaluation:

Engaging with Evidence – GO Lab Session

9 March 2022

Agenda

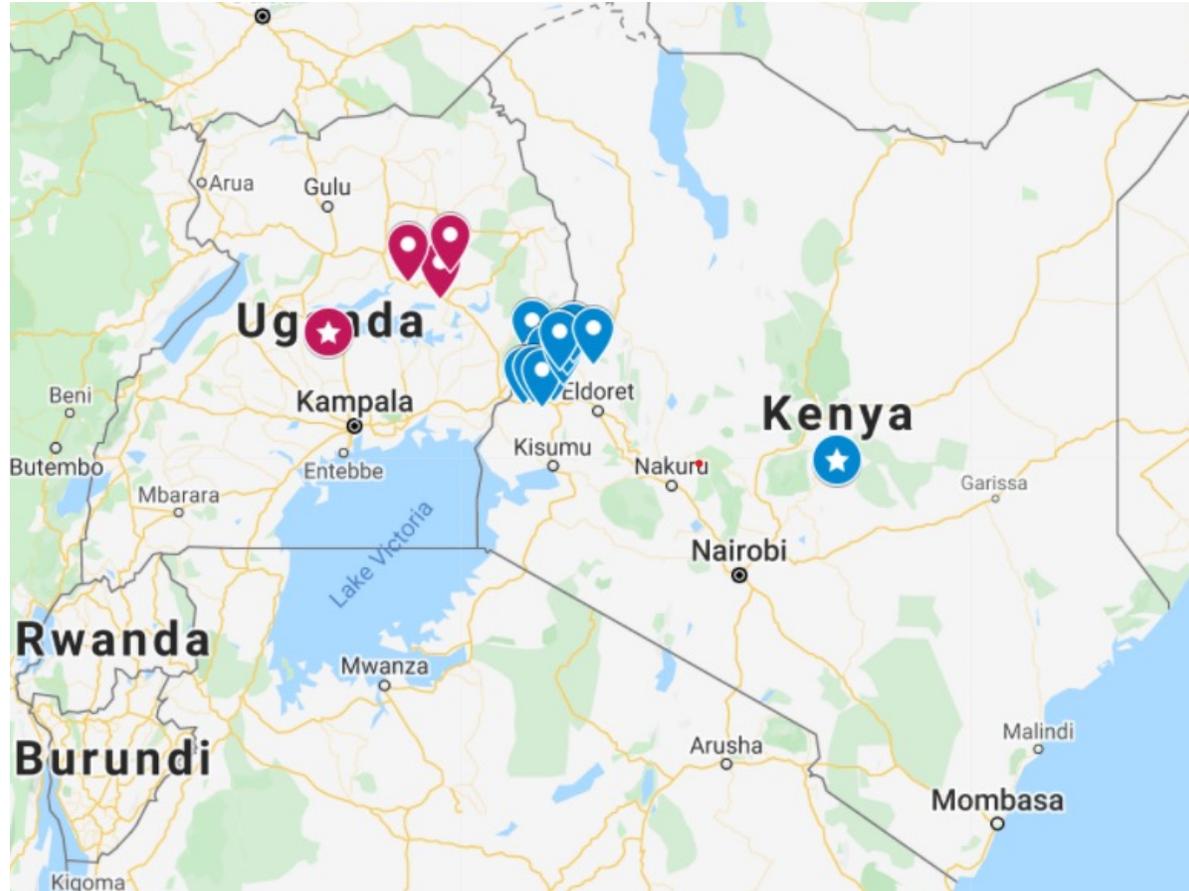|	
1	The Evaluation
2	Main Results
3	Discussion

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1. The Evaluation

Program Implementation

- 241 villages/14,772 ultra-poor households offered the program
- 14,130 (95.7%) received the first cash grant
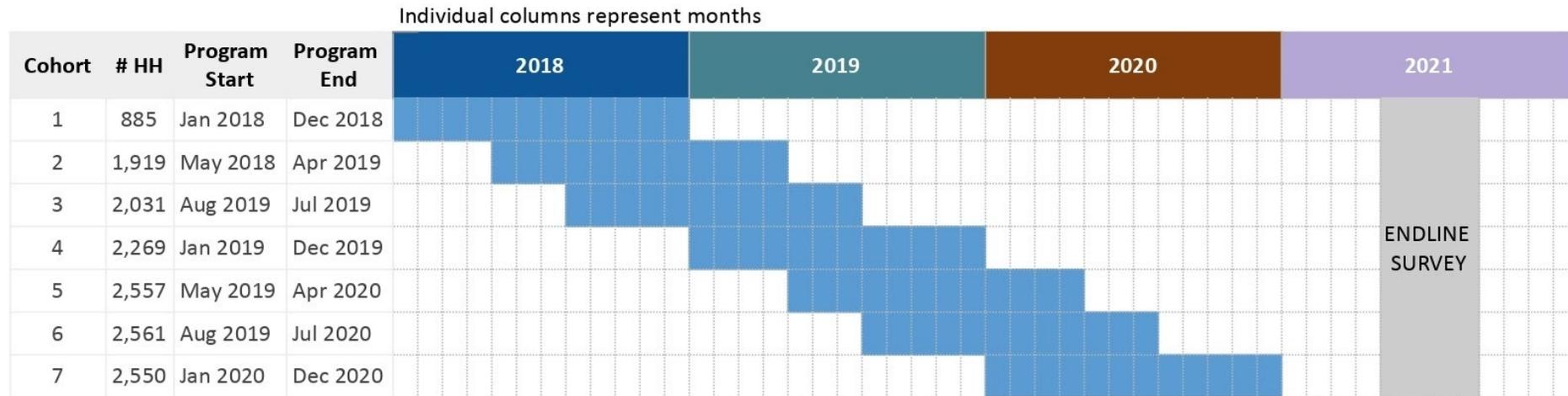- 13,839 (93.7%) received both the first and second grants.

The Study

The main objective of this evaluation was to determine the impact of Village Enterprise's program on household consumption and assets.

To assess the impact of the program, we designed a cluster randomized controlled trial (RCT) in Trans-Nzoia and Bungoma counties of Kenya, and Soroti, Amuria and Dokolo districts of Uganda. Treatment was assigned at the village level.

We randomly selected 21 households per village to participate in our endline survey for a total of 10,122 households. We successfully collected data from 9,888 households.

Village Enterprise Cohort Timelines

Individual columns represent months

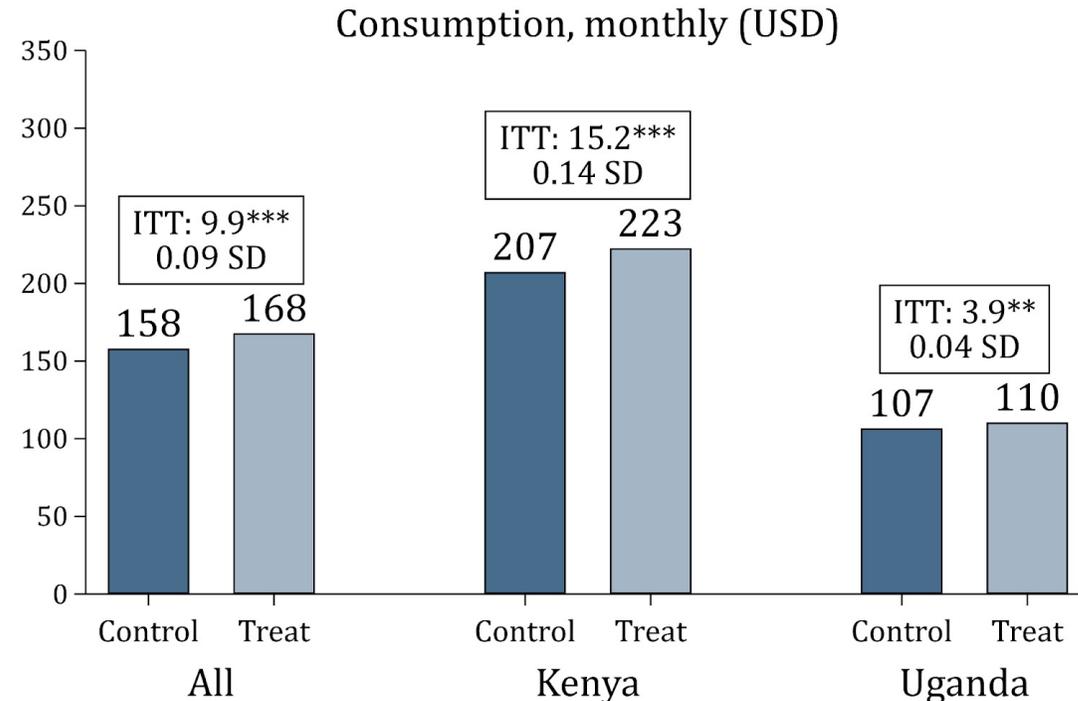| Cohort	# HH	Program Start	Program End	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	885	Jan 2018	Dec 2018				
2	1,919	May 2018	Apr 2019				
3	2,031	Aug 2019	Jul 2019				
4	2,269	Jan 2019	Dec 2019				ENDLINE SURVEY
5	2,557	May 2019	Apr 2020				
6	2,561	Aug 2019	Jul 2020				
7	2,550	Jan 2020	Dec 2020				

2. Main Results

Program had positive impact on household consumption

- The program had a positive and statistically significant impact on household monthly consumption.

- On average, households that were offered the program consumed 9.9 USD (6.3%) more per month than those in the control group.

Consumption, monthly (USD)

ITT: 9.9***
0.09 SD

ITT: 15.2***
0.14 SD

ITT: 3.9**
0.04 SD

All: Control 158, Treat 168
Kenya: Control 207, Treat 223
Uganda: Control 107, Treat 110

* p<0.1, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01

- In Kenya, effects were driven by consumptions of green maize, beef, dried and smoked fish, maize grain or flour, and chicken.

- In Uganda, treatment households consumed significantly more chicken, tomatoes, dried and smoked fish.

Program had positive impact on net assets

- The program also had a positive and statistically significant effect on net assets.

- On average, households in the treatment group had USD 40.5 (5.8%) more in net assets than those in the control group.
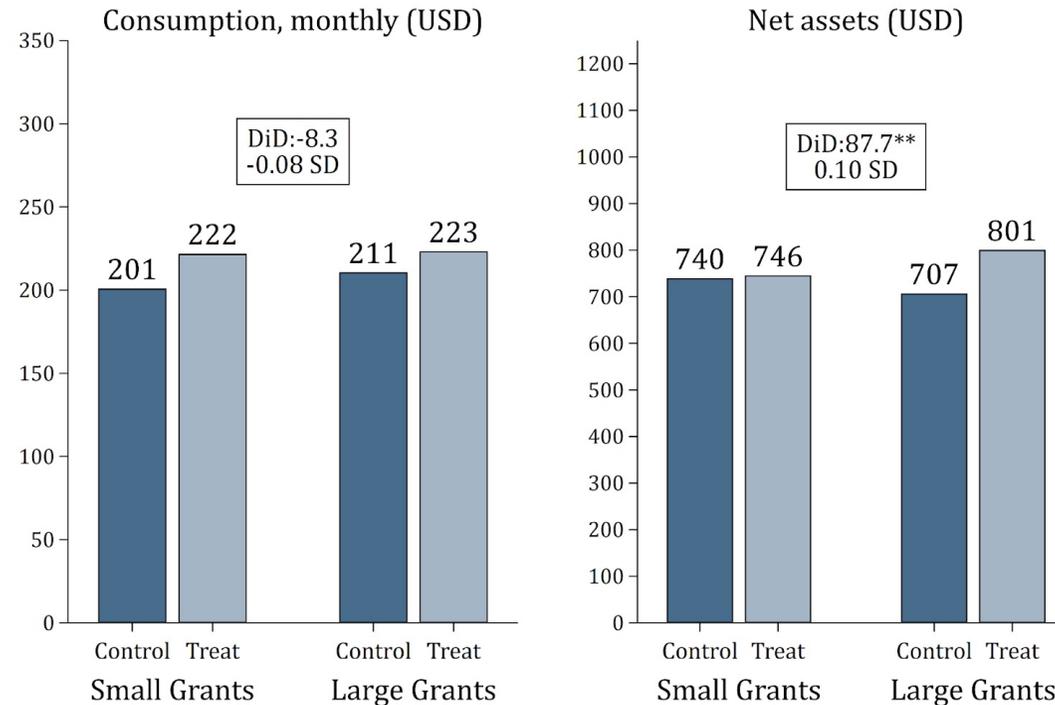
Net assets (USD)
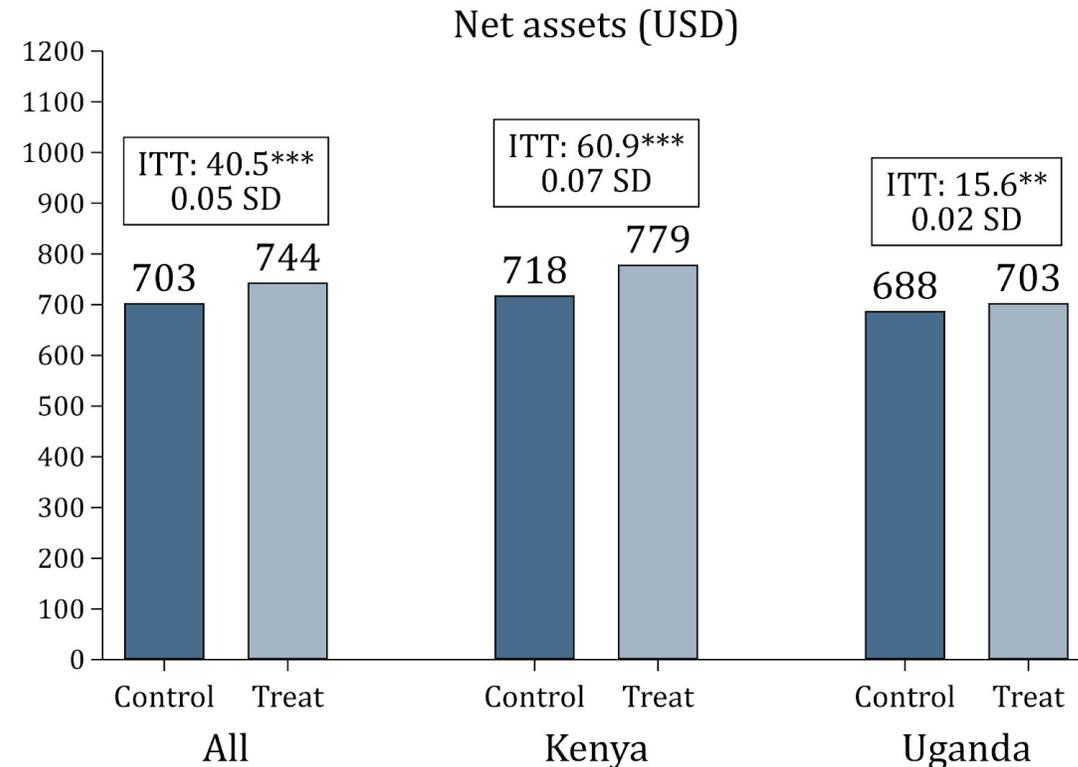
- Treatment effects are driven more by increases in household assets.

- Kenyan households spent more on new roofing, new homes, and durable assets. Ugandan households spent more on livestock assets.

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Households that received larger grants had greater net assets

➢ Cash transfer size ($50 vs. $150):

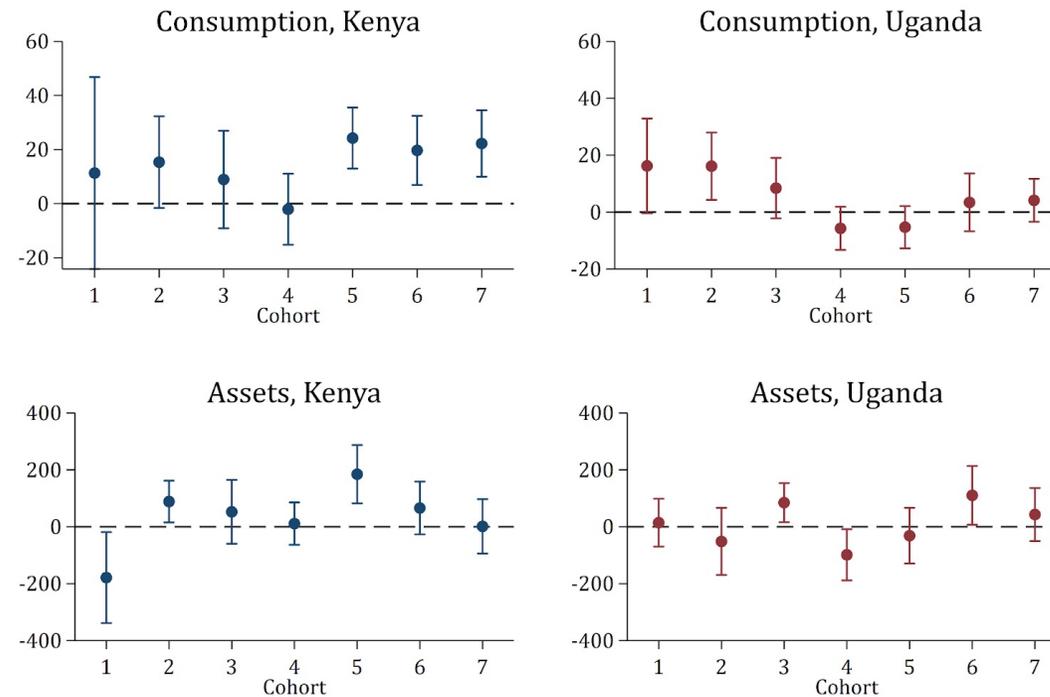## Effects of small vs large grants, Kenya only

No differences on consumption for households that received larger vs. smaller grants. However, households that received larger grants had on average 87.7 USD more in net assets.

Treatment effects do not vary much by program cohort

➢ Cohort (time of participation in the program):

Cohort-wise treatment effects

There were no significant differences in treatment effects on household consumption, except for Cohort 4 (smaller treatment effect). Treatment effects on assets presented more variation.

Households that were slightly better off at baseline have better consumption

➢ Baseline wealth:

Treatment effects by PPI quintile, by country
Quintile 1 = most poor
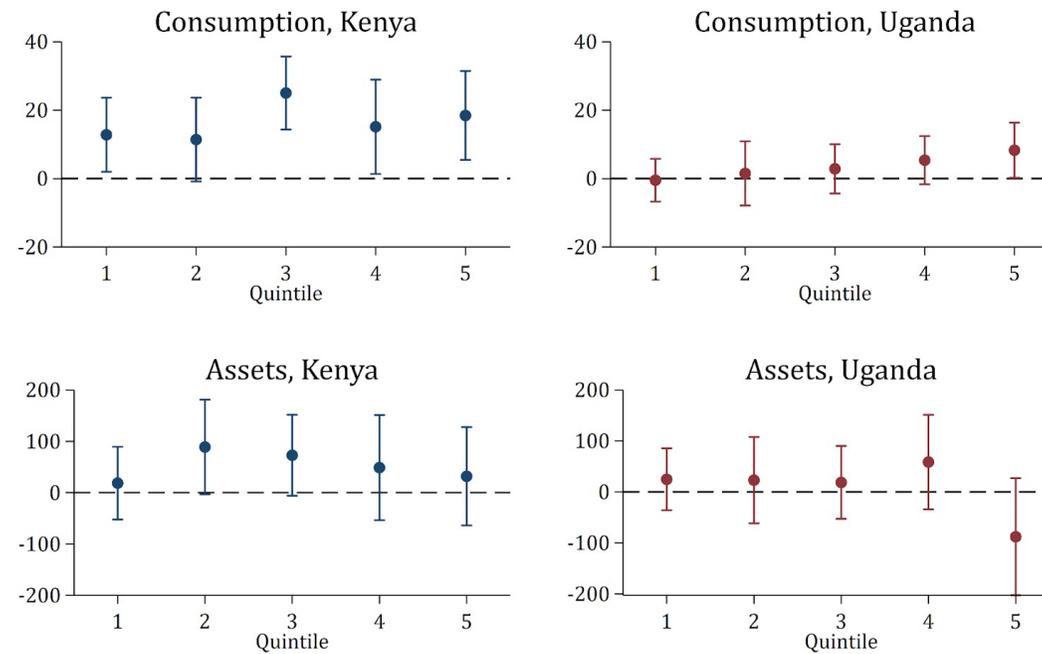
Treatment effects on consumption are generally greater for households that had more wealth at baseline. There is less of a clear pattern for assets.

No difference in program effects based on participant perception of COVID impact

- 87% of households reported being negatively affected by COVID

Treatment effects by if HH livelihood was affected by COVID
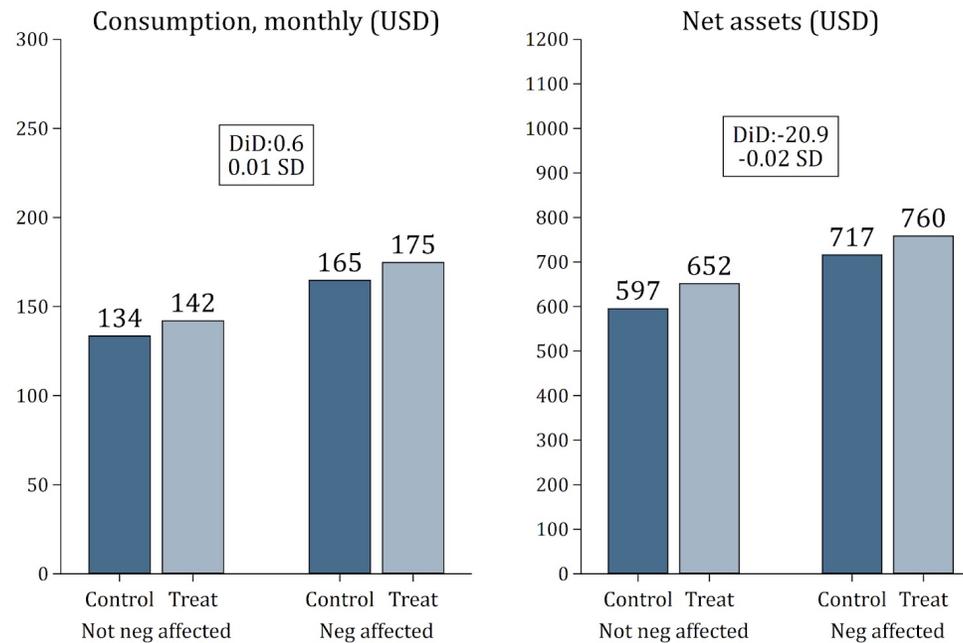
- No differences in treatment effects between households that reported being negatively affected by COVID-19 compared to those that reported a positive effect or no effect.

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3. Discussion

Discussion

➢ Six months to 2.5 years after the conclusion of the program, the Village Enterprise program continued to have a positive, statistically significant impact on the livelihoods of its ultra-poor recipients.

➢ Effects were larger in Kenya.

➢ Treatment effects varied by program cohort (timing of the program), which could have been impacted by the pandemic.

➢ The size of the grants did not result in differential effects on consumption, which is consistent with recent evidence from cash transfer programs, where larger transfers do not translate into larger or longer-term program impact.

➢ The findings show that, in spite of the pandemic, beneficiaries of the Village Enterprise program were still able to increase their consumption and assets, which points to the success of the Village Enterprise model in promoting self-reliance amongst its beneficiaries.

Discussion

➢ While existing evidence shows that poverty graduation programs have positive effects on the welfare of its beneficiaries, this is the first evaluation that looks at the impact of graduation style interventions in household consumption and assets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

➢ Results are internally valid and unbiased, despite the pandemic, due to randomized assignment of villages to treatment and control.

➢ However, the pandemic may have affected the effect sizes of the program and the generalizability of the findings to a non-pandemic context.

➢ We will explore impact heterogeneity, resilience, and the pandemic as a moderating factor of treatment effects in a forthcoming paper.

Lessons Learned from the DIB

➢ The evaluation is the lynchpin of the Development Impact Bond.

➢ Important to focus on outcomes that lead to improvements downstream for the implementing organization (in this case Village Enterprise).

➢ If working in a vulnerable environment, important to design the evaluation to be able to measure impact if shocks arise.

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Thank you

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Panel discussion on three main themes:

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Panelists

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Delta Fund

Frida Njogu-Ndongwe
IDinsight

Zach Hoins
Village Enterprise

Charlie Morgan

Senior Policy Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

- Charlie is an Impact Bond Specialist within FCDO's Private Sector Department. She currently leads on outcomes-based financing policy in the FCDO and manages the Development Impact Bonds Pilot Programme, which is generating evidence on the effectiveness and efficiency of the impact bond mechanism in development and humanitarian contexts.

- She previously worked on Social Impact Bond policy at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, where she supported on the delivery and data management of the £80m Life Chances Fund. Prior to joining the civil service, Charlie specialised in forced migration and asylum processing through her work with the UNHCR delegation in Malaysia and a UK charity supporting survivors of torture.

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Douglas Emeott

Project Manager, Instiglio

- As Project Manager at Instiglio, Douglas provides technical support and project management to the design and implementation of varied results-based financing instruments. Douglas supported and managed the technical design and launch of the Village Enterprise Development Impact Bond in 2017 and served as Project Manager during its implementation throughout 2017-2021.
- Formerly, Douglas was an Analyst at the World Bank, while other previous experiences include USAID contractor management in Washington D.C. and project management with Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala. Douglas holds a Master's Degree in International Relations & International Economics from Johns Hopkins University (SAIS) and is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

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Mara Airoldi

Academic Director, Government Outcomes Lab, Blavatnik School of Government

- Mara is an Economist and Decision Analyst and holds degrees from Bocconi University in Milan and the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research is motivated by a desire to improve decision making in government, with a special interest and extensive expertise in the field of healthcare.
- Mara has worked extensively with managers of the English and the Italian National Health Systems. She has also consulted for the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in Ontario (Canada), the Home Office, the Ministry of Defence and the (then) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England, NATO and the Global Fund to fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Co-Founder, Delta Fund
- Brian is a co-founder of The Delta Fund, a portfolio of impact investments and grants focused on supporting organizations working to improve equity. Brian and his wife Katie co-lead the fund's focus on poverty alleviation, racial justice and economic justice by helping to scale organizations that improve outcomes for the poor and disadvantaged. He currently serves on the boards for Faith and Prejudice, Upaya Social Ventures and LifeHikes.
- Brian is a former Vice President at Facebook where he built high impact teams in strategy, operations, marketing and engineering. Prior to working with Facebook, Brian spent time as an entrepreneur, working at an agency and in product roles at Microsoft.
- Brian holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy with honours.

Brian Boland

East & Southern Africa Regional Director, IDinsight

- Dr Frida Njogu-Ndongwe is the East & Southern Africa Regional Director at IDinsight, based in Nairobi, Kenya. She is a medical doctor, public health specialist, entrepreneur, as well as a development and management consultant. Prior to IDinsight, Frida was the Director of Programs at the Center for Health Solutions – Kenya and a consultant at McKinsey & Company's Africa Delivery Hub.
- She served most recently as CEO and co-founder of Afyakit Technologies, a Kenya-based start-up that built and operates a health analytics platform for health managers and service providers. Afyakit Technologies was named by WHO as one of the 30 top innovations with the highest potential for health impact in Africa.

Frida Njogu-Ndongwe

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Zach Hoins

Chief Operations Officer, Village Enterprise

- Zach Hoins is the Chief Operations Officer at Village Enterprise. During his six years as COO, Zach has been responsible for the vision, design, and implementation of Village Enterprise's adaptive management system, ensuring first-time entrepreneurs in East Africa are empowered with the resources and skills to start sustainable businesses and savings groups. Over the past 6 years, he also led the Village Enterprise team during the Development Impact Bond implementation.
- Zach has more than 15 years of experience leading and guiding international development teams. He holds a BS in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska and an MPS in Community and Economic Development from Pennsylvania State University.

Thank you for joining us!

We would love your feedback!

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