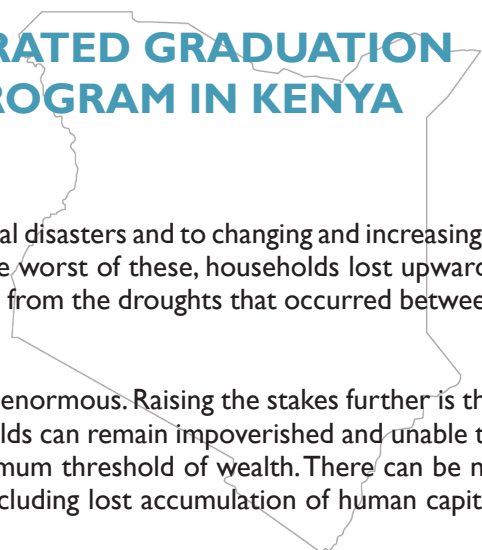




FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

A RANDOMIZED EVALUATION OF AN INTEGRATED GRADUATION AND CONTINGENT SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM IN KENYA



Background

Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households in northern Kenya are vulnerable to natural disasters and to changing and increasingly unpredictable weather. Seven droughts struck Kenya between 1992 and 2012. In the worst of these, households lost upwards of half of their productive wealth over the course of a few months. Overall, damages from the droughts that occurred between 2008 and 2012 cost an estimated US \$12.4 billion.

The human and economic consequences of shocks of this magnitude are potentially enormous. Raising the stakes further is the accumulating evidence that severe losses in this region may be irreversible. Households can remain impoverished and unable to move forward after a severe drought event that pushes them below a critical minimum threshold of wealth. There can be no doubt that the accumulating costs as families struggle to recover are substantial, including lost accumulation of human capital as they cut their spending on food and their children's education.

Project Summary

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Assets and Market Access will conduct a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to evaluate synergies between social development and social protection programs in Kenya. This project will investigate the impacts, alone and in combination, of the NGO BOMA's Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) Graduation Program and Index-based Livestock Insurance (IBLI).

Two recent pilot programs in Northern Kenya provide building blocks for an integrated social protection policy that can potentially alter poverty dynamics. The REAP program was introduced in the region in 2011 to provide a package of financial and business education, confidence building and coaching, culminating with a business asset transfer. First introduced in 2009, the IBLI index insurance program created a mechanism that triggers payments based on remote sensing indicators of forage scarcity and livestock mortality.

The research team will measure outcomes at the level of individual households as well as in terms of local poverty measures. A second research goal is to understand the density with which graduation programs like REAP need to be offered. The third and final goal of this research—contingent on obtaining additional funding—is to explore the relative effectiveness of alternative mechanisms for delivering contingent payments to poor and vulnerable households in the wake of drought.

Anticipated Impacts

This project will provide critical information to the Government of Kenya for designing and implementing a pro-graduation social protection strategy. In addition, this research should be able to answer numerous important and generalizable questions around the design and implementation of integrated, efficient social protection programs to the benefit of policy-makers and development agencies around the world working to design such schemes.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Lead PI

Michael Carter, UC Davis

Partners

International Livestock Research Institute, BOMA

Timeline

2017-2021

Funding

\$1,430,340

Region

Northern Kenya

Key

Innovation

Paired social development programs with index-based livestock insurance

Commodity

Livestock



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