Evaluation of Youth Employment Programs at the World Bank

Mattias Lundberg and Rita Almeida
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ALMP / YE evaluations supported or executed by the World Bank

- BNPP / SIEF (6 evaluations)
- AGI (7+)
- RFLIT (17)
- Other (~35)
Evaluation of related Safety Nets programs

- Workfare / Public Works
- Transfer / income support (CCT and UCT)
- Targeted (girls / women, OVC, food insecure households and regions)

A few examples

- Malawi (ZOMBA) – girls stay in school longer, delaying marriage and sexual activity, may lead to a reduction in the risk of HIV infection; CCT arm proved to be more cost-effective than UCT.

- South Africa (CSG) – improved the nutritional status of young children, especially among the very youngest.

- Ethiopia (PSNP) – improved food security, even though food prices were rising dramatically at the time, increased the growth rate of livestock holdings, even for those affected by drought.
BNPP / SIEF ALMP cluster-supported programs

- Dominican Republic, Programa Juventud y Empleo (PJE)
- Malawi, Impact evaluation of Technical and Vocational Skills Training for Orphaned, Vulnerable and Affected Youth
- South Africa, A Youth Wage Subsidy Experiment for South Africa
- Tunisia, Turning Theses into Enterprises
- Turkey, Turkish Public Employment Agency (ISKUR) Impact evaluation of Vocational Training
- Uganda, The Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) Youth Opportunities Program (YOP)
AGI-supported programs

- Pilot projects, mostly in fragile states, to promote the transition of adolescent girls from school to productive employment.
- Training in skills for wage employment, business development, and life skills; with placement assistance and links to microfinance.
- Five countries in first wave: Liberia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Nepal, Afghanistan.
- Expanded to include Jordan, Haiti, Laos, PNG, …. 
RFLIT-supported programs

- 17 evaluations in 5 clusters.
- To enhance financial understanding, knowledge, and behavior, primarily among households and consumers.
- A few focus on financial capability for enterprises:
  - Brazil – financial education for schoolchildren and parents;
  - India – bank cards and financial education mentoring;
  - India – “doorstep banking” and the role of financial services;
  - Kenya – comparing traditional school-based curriculum and utilization of broadcast and new media, such as comics, radio, and social networking;
  - Uganda – the impact of networks on financial capabilities of small business owners;
  - India and Kenya – use of index-based insurance.
Other ALMP / YE evaluations supported by the World Bank

- More than 30 other active labor market programs targeting young people, e.g.
  - Social protection in a crisis: Argentina's *Plan Jefes y Jefas*.
  - Female economic empowerment through vocational education in Kenya.
  - Promoting self-employment among the unemployed in Hungary and Poland.
  - Ex-combatant reintegration and peacebuilding in Liberia.
  - Impact of female education on labor market outcomes in Malawi.
  - does the Slovenian public works program increase participants' chances to find a job?
Take-away messages:

- The evidence is getting better: supply-side interventions can work.
- But we need to learn more about
  - Cost-effectiveness – which programs are most effective? Which programs are worth doing? (effectiveness is not enough)
  - Heterogeneity of impact – why do programs work better for some than for others?
  - External validity – which programs work in different places, among different people?
  - What type of training is most effective (job skills, “life skills,”…), in what combination?
  - How are skills and other benefits best delivered? In a classroom? On the job?
  - Dose-response – what is optimum exposure? Hours? Days? Weeks?
  - Short vs long-term effects – does impact attenuate or grow over time?
  - Scale – how can we afford it and sustain it?
  - “General Equilibrium” effects – what happens to prices, wages, and incentives?
- More importantly, what constrains employment?
  - The work force has the “wrong” training, or is badly trained?
  - There simply aren’t enough jobs?
  - What if the constraints are elsewhere (eg credit markets)?
Other resources and activities supported by the World Bank

- SIEF Spanish Impact Evaluation Fund
- SIEF Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund
- YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INVENTORY
- GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
- iŞKUR Türkiye İş Kurumu