



Synergies between social protection and rural development programmes. Main results of the impact evaluations in Latin America and Africa

KEY MESSAGES

Coordination between social protection and rural productive development programmes can help poor and at-risk households escape the poverty trap and break its intergenerational transmission.

This has been demonstrated by the results of a set of impact evaluations carried out on programmes of this type in three cases in two countries in Latin America and in four African countries. Although these evaluations were performed before the socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19, the results are promising in terms of their contribution to increasing households' resilience to external shocks. This constitutes an important argument in favour of promoting strategies of this nature in the economic reactivation of the rural sector.

The evaluation results are generally positive. In relation to the productive variables, positive effects were found for productive assets, hourly dedication to work in secondary activities, number of agricultural products, average herd size and crop production, among others.

Improvements were also observed in access to financial services, specifically in the number of households that make savings, the amount of savings made and a reduction in informal usury loans.

While in Africa the emphasis of the interventions has been placed on improving food security, agricultural production, marketing, education, income, risk-taking behaviour and strategies to deal with risks; in Latin America, they have focused on productive variables, such as hours of work, income, production and access to technologies, as well as financial services, social capital and psychological variables associated with aspirations and empowerment.

In Africa, the results point towards important and positive effects of the interaction between productive projects and social protection programmes, in terms of food security and nutrition.

In Latin America, the interactions between productive projects and social protection programmes have had positive effects in terms of psychological and social variables. Specifically, on expectations, aspirations, hope, subjective well-being and empowerment.

PROGRAMMES EVALUATED

LATIN AMERICA

Colombia 1

- Familias en su Tierra (FEST)
- Estrategia UNIDOS

Colombia 2

- Programa Proyectos Productivos (PPP)

Peru

- Programa Nacional de Apoyo Directo a los más Pobres – Juntos
- Haku Wiñay + soft skills pilot project Africa

AFRICA

Ethiopia

- Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)
- Improved Nutrition Social Cash Transfer (IN-SCT)

Lesotho

- Child Grants Program (CGP)
- Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and Access to Government Services (SPRINGS)

Mali

- Nioro Cash+ Project

Zambia

- Home Grown School Feeding (HGSE)
- Programme and the Conservation Agriculture Scale-Up (CASU)

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



PRODUCTIVE

FEST

- + productive assets
- + dedication to work in secondary activities

PPP

- + productive assets
- + livestock products
- food crop products

PSNP + IN-SCT

- + livestock
- + production of livestock by products
- + average herd size
- + crop production

CGP + SPRINGS

- + access to markets

Nioro Cash+

- + livestock production

Haku Wiñay

- + new technologies

CASU + HGSE

- + livestock
- + marketing



INCOME, POVERTY AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PPP

- poverty

CGP + SPRINGS

- poverty gap
- + income
- + consumption

Haku Wiñay

- + income

CASU + HGSE

- + total revenues
- poverty (simulation)
- + income distribution (simulation)



FOOD SECURITY AND EDUCATION

FEST + UNIDOS

- severe food insecurity
- + mild food insecurity

PPP

- moderate food insecurity
- + mild food insecurity

CGP + SPRINGS

- + dietary diversity

Nioro Cash+

- + food security

CASU + HGSE

- + food security
- schooling



FINANCES AND RISKS

FEST + UNIDOS

- + savings
- informal loans

PPP

- + formal loans
- informal loans

CGP + SPRINGS

- + households saving and borrowing money
- + money saved and borrowed
- negative coping strategies
- + willingness to take risks



PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL

FEST + UNIDOS

- + subjective well-being
- + expectations
- + social capital

PPP

- + empowerment
- + subjective well-being
- + social capital

Nioro Cash+

- + aspirations for children's education

Haku Wiñay

- + locus of control

Haku Wiñay + Soft Skills Programme

- + internal locus of control
- powerful others index

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The results of the impact evaluations endorse the programmes based on cash transfers as effective tools to reduce food insecurity and poverty. However, the approaches are more successful insofar as they incorporate dimensions of productive promotion that provide more structural support to the exit from poverty. It is also advisable to consider advice and support interventions, which appear as elements of significant importance in the transformation of greater monetary resources into better diets or better technologies.
- It is recommended to include in the programme activities focusing on strengthening community or collective initiatives, as well as the strengthening of soft skills, as it would appear that these provide greater robustness to the positive impacts derived from the transfers. Moreover, the promotion of these types of initiatives is particularly relevant in terms of generating improvements in perceptions of well-being and the empowerment of beneficiaries, and thus contribute to overcoming poverty traps.
- Another recommendation deals with the design of comprehensive programmes that address these different dimensions simultaneously, in order to discourage competitive uses of household resources, the generation of complementary areas, and the provision of solid pathways to exit poverty.

info

sinergiasrurales.info

For more information about the Rural Synergies Project, write to:

- **Jorge Maldonado**
jmaldona@uniandes.edu.co
- **Viviana León-Jurado**
dv.leon10@uniandes.edu.co

To access the full documents from this case use this QR code:

