

Providing Entrepreneurship Skills to Adolescent Girls in Uganda

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Female Entrepreneurship: Obstacles, Innovative Interventions, and Impacts

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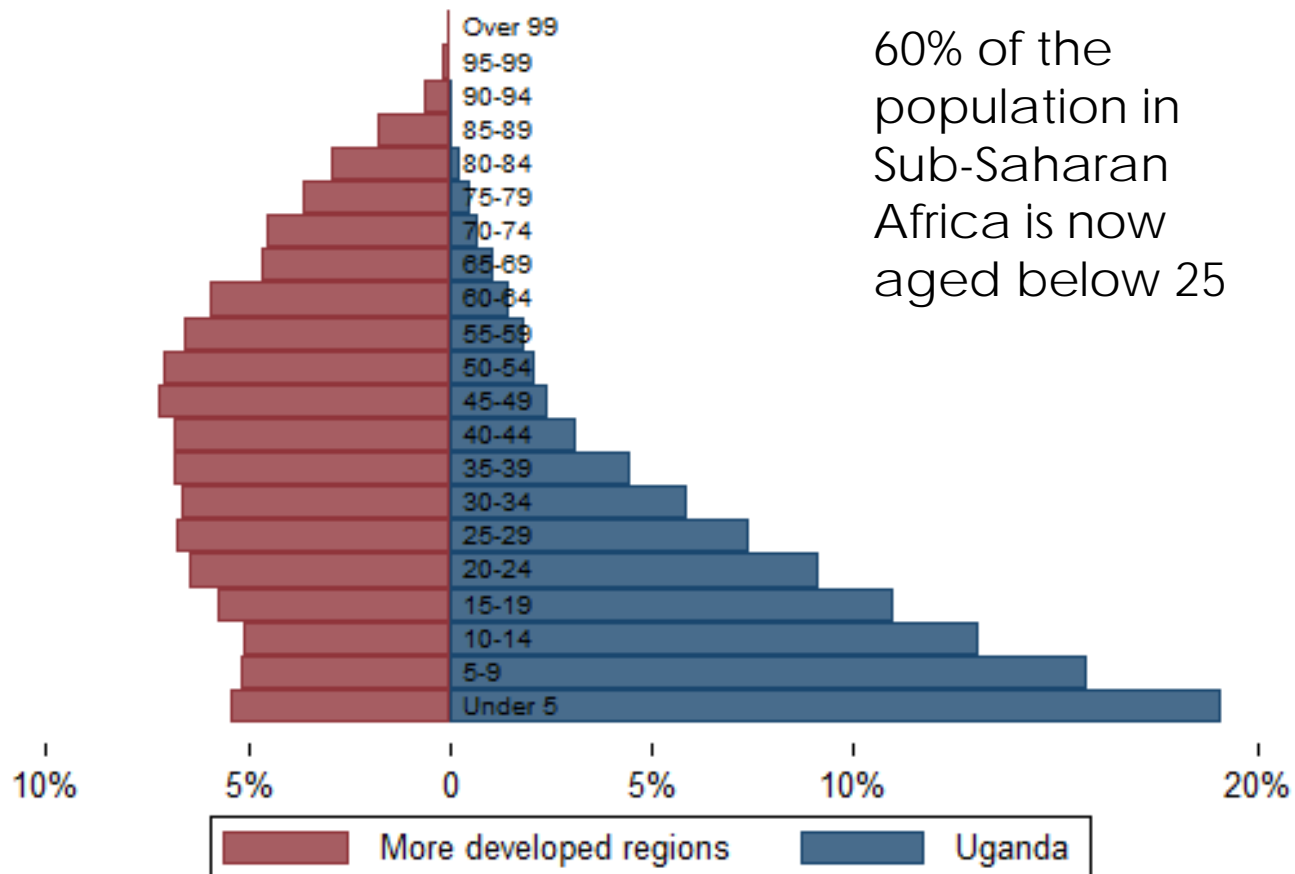
These slides build on a working paper with the same title co-authored by Oriana Bandiera, Niklas Buehren, Robin Burgess, Markus Goldstein, Selim Gulesci, Imran Rasul and Munshi Sulaiman downloadable under:

<http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~uctpimr/research/ELA.pdf>



Why should we care?

Female Population by Age, 2010



Why should we care?

- The youth are confronted by interlinked challenges between
 - Economic dimension, e.g. unemployment
 - Health related dimension, e.g. early marriage, pregnancy, STDs and HIV infection
- In this study we evaluate an intervention that attempts to simultaneously tackle both dimensions faced by adolescent girls in Uganda

The ELA Program

- Empowerment and Livelihood for Adolescents (ELA) was developed and is being implemented by BRAC
- Operates through clubs, a social space for 20-35 girls within a community who meet regularly
- Club sessions are led by an adolescent leader and center around recreational activities, e.g. reading, and playing games, as well as training
- Two types of training:
 - Livelihood training (vocational & financial literacy courses)
 - Life Skill training (reproductive health, pregnancy, STDs, HIV awareness, family planning, rape, etc.)

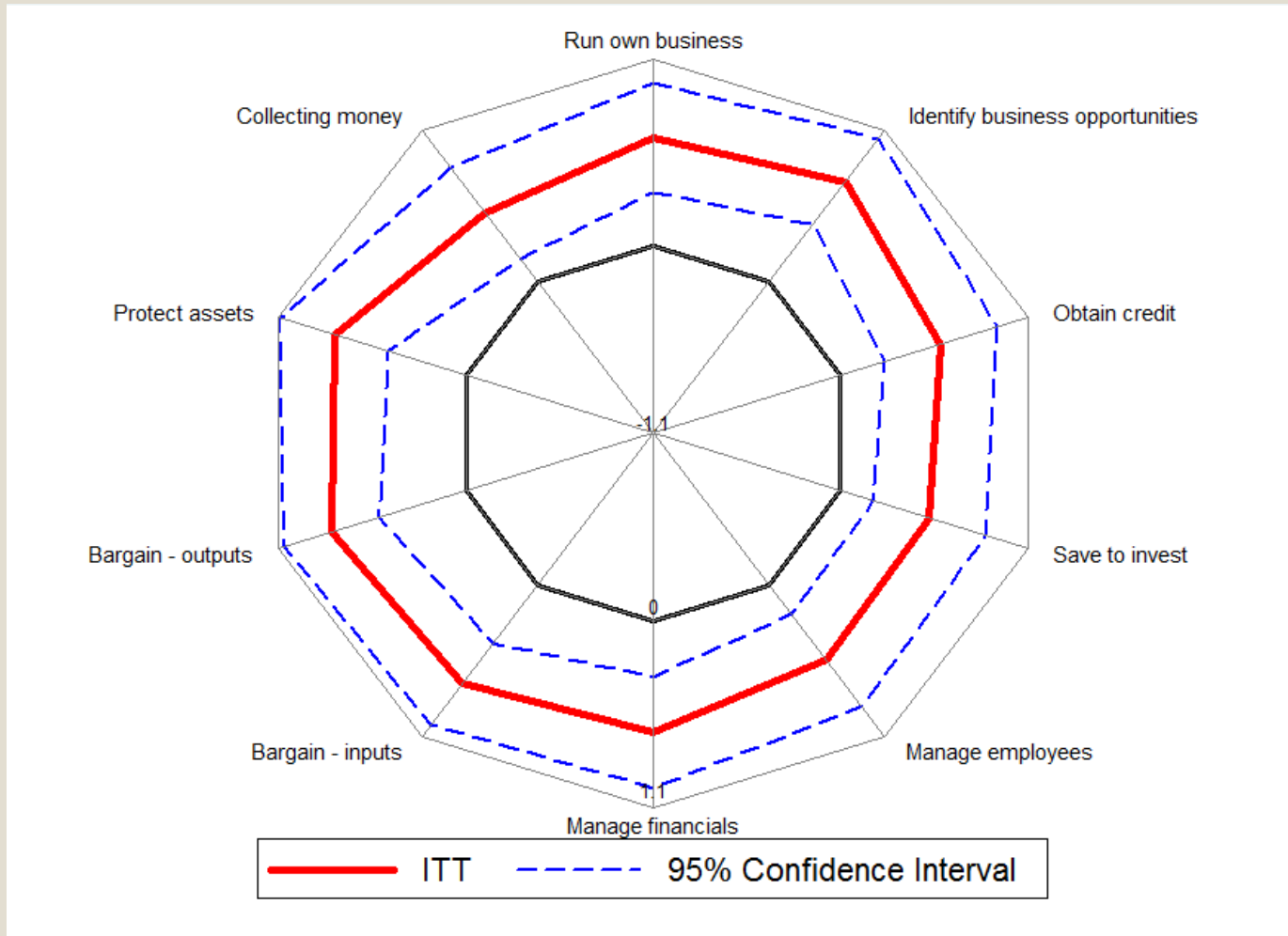
Research Design & Data

- Randomized Control Trial
 - Implemented in 10 already existing BRAC branches
 - 150 potential program communities identified
 - 100 communities randomly assigned to treatment (ELA club established) and the remaining 50 communities kept as control
- Panel Data
 - Baseline data collection commenced in 2008
 - Adolescents were re-surveyed 2 years after the beginning of the intervention, creating a panel data set of 4,888 respondents

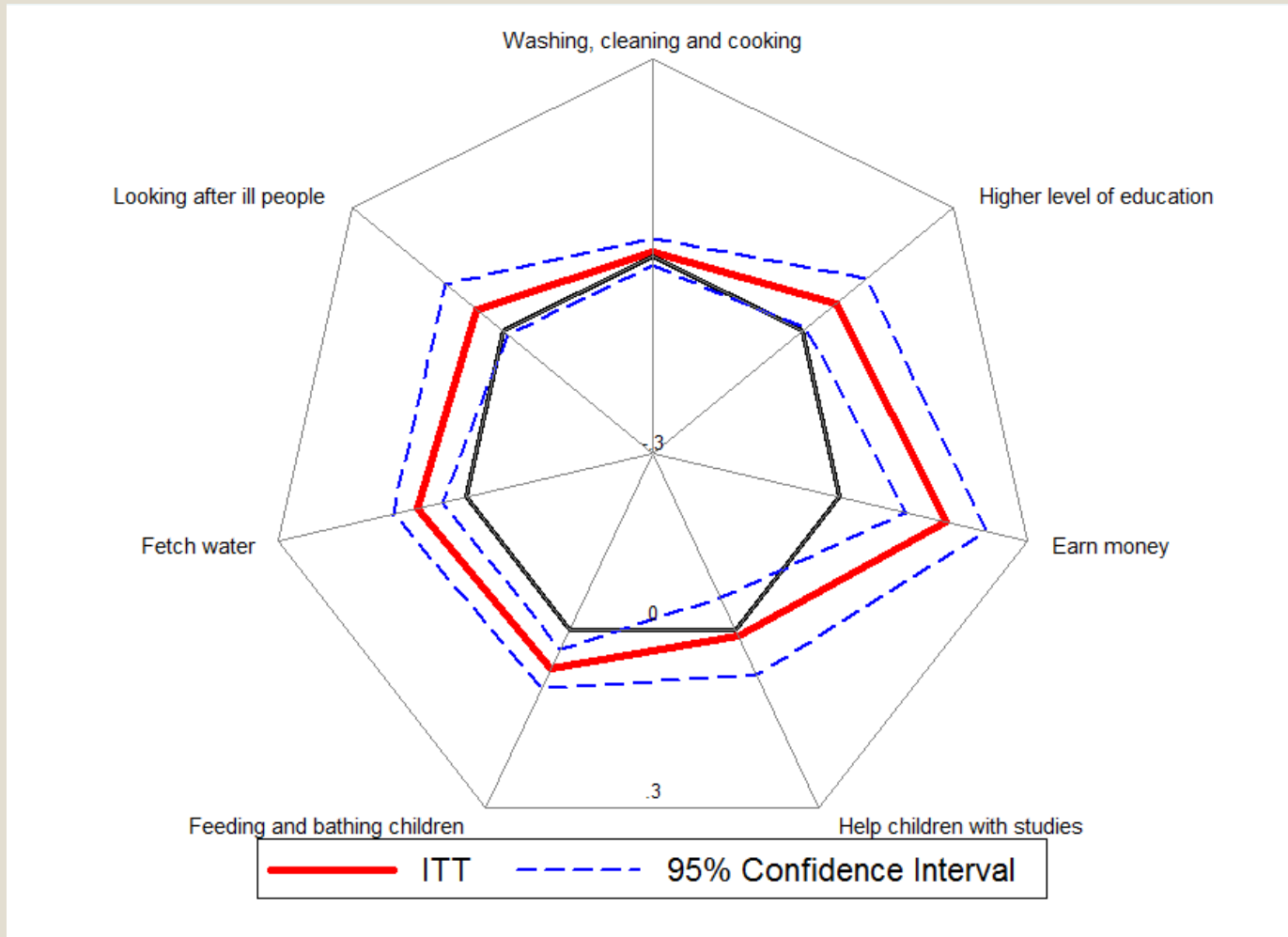
Impact on Income Generating Activities

- Engagement in IGAs increases by 32%
- Mostly driven by self-employment activities (increase by 71%)
- Income from self-employment activities (conditional) increases by about \$32
- Corresponding increase in hours spent on self-employment activities and monthly expenditures
- No adverse effects on schooling outcomes, e.g. school enrollment or time spent on studying

Impact on Entrepreneurship Skills



Impact on Empowerment



Impact on Health & Agency

- HIV and pregnancy related knowledge significantly improves
- Strong effects on fertility: reported motherhood decreases by 26%
- Proportion of those always using a condom increases by 27%
- No effect on use of other contraceptives or reported STDs
- Incidence of sex against their will drops by 76%

Conclusion

- Impacts can be contrasted with the overall cost per eligible girl of \$17.9 in the second year of program operation
- Findings suggest interventions that simultaneously provide skills & knowledge related to income generation and health, can have beneficial, quantitatively large and sustained impacts on adolescent girls