

LAC Gender Impact Evaluation Initiative

Building Agency through Practical Interventions



The LAC Gender Impact Evaluation Initiative (GIEI), created in 2012, seeks to address the knowledge gap on agency identified by the World Development Report on Gender and Development. The Initiative strives to identify effective tools to measure agency and to increase existing evidence on the role of agency in achieving gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean through rigorous impact evaluations. In 2013, the initiative directly supported governments and to World Bank teams (TTLs) on 15 impact evaluations conducted in 8 countries in the LAC region. Innovative IE's under the initiative include:

- **In Ecuador**, almost 1 in every 5 girls between the age of 15 and 19 are mothers (National Population Census, INEC, 2010). The GIEI team is working with the Municipality of Quito to evaluate a pilot program that aims to reduce teen pregnancy by applying behaviorally informed interventions in municipal schools: i) peer-to-peer training on sexual and reproductive health and life plans; and ii) text messages sent to adolescent students about their aspirations for their futures.
- **In Haiti**, the GIEI team is evaluating the Adolescent Girls Initiative, which provides life skills training in combination with technical training to enable a successful school to employment transition for young girls. The evaluation seeks to identify the role that agency plays in achieving better jobs.
- **In El Salvador**, the GIEI team is providing cross support to Social Protection to conduct a gender disaggregated evaluation of the effects of a temporary cash transfer and job training program with a particular focus on the role of depression as a constraint to agency.
- **In Colombia**, the GIEI team is supporting two TTL teams in the development of impact evaluations – one that will evaluate the impact of mobile legal service provision to isolated municipalities and the other, which will evaluate the impacts of a national water infrastructure subsidy program provided to households to connect to existing water and sewage infrastructure.

What types of evaluations do we support? We provide support to evaluations that are interested in answering research questions about the role of agency in achieving desired outcomes and evaluations that seek to understand gender specific outcomes. We define agency as the ability to make choices and take actions to achieve desired outcomes (2012 WDR). We view agency as a process in which resources are transformed into doings and beings one values and has reason to value. This definition guides the measurement tools we use within each evaluation and also helps identify the behavioral gaps between choice and action that may be relevant to each intervention. We are testing various psychometric scales to measure agency itself, as well as constraints and enablers of agency such as self-efficacy, self-esteem, grit/self-control, and depression. We also build specific survey modules to understand the role of aspirations, social norms, and gender stereotypes on agency.

What support can we offer World Bank Teams or Government Counterparts? Our team works with interested government counterparts and TTLs in the LAC region that would like to implement an impact evaluation with a gender lens but may not have the time or technical capacity to do so in a rigorous manner. We work with your team to facilitate the development of a research question, map program implementation and intervention (theory of change), design evaluations, develop questionnaires, consolidate administrative data, manage data collection in the field, and conduct analysis. We do not offer funding for data collection but can help identify funding sources and write proposals.

We are also working to increase the support for impact evaluation implementers by developing online resources to make finding impact evaluations and collaborating with other teams implementing impact evaluations easier. Check out our website to learn more: <http://go.worldbank.org/TZ1NCVOSPO>

Please contact us with questions or interest: Facundo Cuevas (fcuevas@worldbank.org) or Megan Rounseville (mrounseville@worldbank.org).

Completed

#	Country	Category of Evaluated Project	Program Name	Objective	Bank Contacts
1	Nicaragua	CCT, Leadership, Agency, Early Child Development, Education	Atención a Crisis	Can learning about the positive experiences that others in your community have change your aspirations and, in turn, induce greater investments in education and income generating activities?	Renos Vakis
2	Peru	Health	PRISMA	What is the impact of providing psychological, social, and economic support to families affected by TB through biweekly nurse house visits on treatment adherence and completion?	Facundo Cuevas, Renos Vakis, Elizaveta Perova, Maria Basurto
3	Brazil	Gender Based Violence	Maria da Penha's Law	Assess the impact of the rollout of the Maria da Penha law which created female police officers or DEAMs (Delegacias Especializadas de Atendimento das Mulheres), Women's Reference and Assistance Centers, and altered the penal code to better protect victims of domestic abuse on female homicide rates.	Elizaveta Perova, Miriam Muller
4	Brazil	Gender Based Violence, CCTs	Bolsa Familia	Assess the impact of CCTs on female homicide rates as a proxy for gender based violence between 2006 and 2009 in Brazil.	Elizaveta Perova, Miriam Muller
5	Colombia	CCTs, Political Participation and Voting Behavior	Familias en Accion	Assess the effects of the Colombian CCT program (Familias en Accion) on voter registration, voter turn-out, and voting for the incumbent party. Impacts assessed for direct beneficiaries (women) and indirect beneficiaries (members of the household men and women).	Javier Baez

On-Going

#	Country	Category of Evaluated Project	Program Name	Objective	Bank Contacts
6	El Salvador	Vocational Training	PATI (Programa Apoyo Temporal al Ingreso)	Understand the role of agency and depression on the impacts of a cash transfer and job training program on economic and employment outcomes.	Pablo Acosta, Maria Eugenia Genoni
7	Haiti	Adolescent girls vocational and Life Skills Training	AGI - Haiti	What are the missing links to achieving successful transitions from school to employment for young girls in Haiti? Specifically what role does life-skills training play in achieving better job outcomes.	Facundo Cuevas, Aude-Sophie Rodella
8	Ecuador	Teen Pregnancy Prevention	Text Me Maybe	Evaluation of a school-based peer-to-peer education combined with text message reminders to reduce teen pregnancy. How do aspirations for the future, agency, and gender norms affect teen pregnancy?	Facundo Cuevas, Marta Favara, Megan Rounseville
9	Colombia	Access to Justice - Legal Counseling	Unidades Moviles - Access to Justice in Small Colombian Municipalities	Assess the impacts of mobile unit legal service provision on intra household dynamics; trust in government, and on case load capacity in rural judicial branches.	Jorge Luis Silva Mendez, Megan Rounseville
10	Ecuador	Child and Maternal Health, mHealth	Texting for Nutrition	Assess the impact of a mobile phone intervention on boosting maternal and child health outcomes in nutrition.	Nelson Gutierrez, Megan Rounseville

Pipeline/Seeking Funding

#	Country	Category of Evaluated Project	Program Name	Objective	Bank Contacts
11	Argentina	Infrastructure: Roads and Water	Norte Grande development and Integration	Assess the impacts of a road quality improvement and sewage infrastructure repairs on time use and agency for women and men.	Maria Eugenia Genoni
12	Peru	Gender based motivational information campaigns		Assess the impact of inspirational messages targeted towards national program implementers to improve the delivery of programs and program outcomes.	Maria Eugenia Genoni, Renos Vakis, Elizaveta Perova
13	Colombia	Water and Gender		Assess impacts of subsidies to households to install infrastructure to connect to existing water and sewage networks on health of individuals, sanitation behaviors, multidimensional poverty, sustainability of connections, and water quality, and how that may be different for men and women.	Carlos Rodriguez Castelan, Angelica Nunez, Megan Rounseville
14	Nicaragua	Gender Based Violence and mHealth	Chat Salud	Can texting be a positive and cost effective source of information on sexual and reproductive health?	Elizaveta Perova
15	Brazil	Gender Based Violence	Maria da Penha goes to school campaign		Aude-Sophie Rodella