Evaluating Alternative Cash Transfer Designs in Kenya Using Behavioral Economics

Last registered on November 05, 2014
Trial Information

General Information

Title

Evaluating Alternative Cash Transfer Designs in Kenya Using Behavioral Economics

RCT ID

AEARCTR-0000541

Initial registration date

November 05, 2014

Last updated

November 05, 2014 2:57 AM EST

Location(s)

This section is unavailable to the public. Use the button below to request access to this information.

Request Information

Primary Investigator

Name

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Additional Trial Information

Status

In development

Start date

2014-11-10

End date

2016-04-30

Keywords

Welfare

Additional Keywords

Cash transfer

JEL code(s)

Secondary IDs

Abstract

This study aims to draw on insights from behavioral economics to conduct a rigorous impact evaluation of alternative unconditional cash transfer designs in Kenya. The study's implementing partner, GiveDirectly, which provides unconditional cash transfers to poor households in rural Kenya, will be experimentally varying several features of these transfers. One area of focus will be the timing of transfers, where GiveDirectly will vary the structure and schedule of transfer payments, as well as recipients' control over these timing aspects. A second area of focus will be the role of social information and norms, varying the amount and kind of information recipients receive about assets purchased by their peers. This study will exploit the variation across these different designs to quantify impacts on 1) household-level socio-economic outcomes (income, assets, etc.), 2) measures of well-being (food security, intra-household discord/conflict, various psychosocial scales), and 3) recipients' decision-making process and cognitive ability.

External Link(s)

Registration Citation

Citation

Shah, Anuj et al. 2014. "Evaluating Alternative Cash Transfer Designs in Kenya Using Behavioral Economics." AEA RCT Registry. November 05.
https://www.socialscienceregistry.org/trials/541/history/3038

Sponsors & Partners
Request Information
Experimental Details

Interventions

Intervention(s)

All households in this study will receive an unconditional cash transfer totaling around $1000 USD from GiveDirectly. The structure and timing of these transfers, as well as the information provided to recipients, will be randomized at the household level.

Intervention Start Date

2014-11-10

Intervention End Date

2016-03-15

Outcomes

Outcomes (end points)

Key outcome variables include 1) household-level socio-economic outcomes (income, assets, etc.), 2) measures of overall well-being (food security, intra-household discord/conflict, various psychosocial scales), and 3) recipients' decision-making process and cognitive ability.

Outcomes (explanation)

Experimental Design

Experimental Design

The experimental design comprises two arms looking at 1) transfer timing and 2) information sharing.

On transfer timing, cash transfer recipients will be asked to choose the timing and structure of payments that they would most prefer to receive their transfer. One randomly selected group of recipients will receive the transfer according to their preferred payment structure and schedule, while the other group will be assigned a random payment structure and schedule.

On information sharing, the study will take a list of uncommon investments made by past recipients and randomly vary, at the recipient-investment level, (a) whether the recipient is told about this investment, and (b) if so, the type of information each recipient receives.

Experimental Design Details

Randomization Method

Randomization done in an office by a computer

Randomization Unit

Randomization will occur at the household level (since transfers are distributed at the household level).

Was the treatment clustered?

No

Experiment Characteristics

Sample size: planned number of clusters

510 households

Sample size: planned number of observations

510 households

Sample size (or number of clusters) by treatment arms

Information Arm
255 households get popularity information on 2-3 randomly selected investments (out of 5)
255 households get cost-benefit information on 2-3 randomly selected investments (out of 5)

Timing Arm
280 households get preferred transfer schedule
230 households get random transfer schedule

Minimum detectable effect size for main outcomes (accounting for sample design and clustering)

Supporting Documents and Materials

Documents

IRB

Institutional Review Board(s)

IRB Name

Social and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board at the University of Chicago

IRB Approval Date

2014-10-28

IRB Approval Number

IRB14-1019-AM001

IRB Name

Maseno University Ethics Review Board

IRB Approval Date

2014-10-15

IRB Approval Number

MSU/DRPC/MUERC/00105/14

Analysis Plan

Analysis Plan Documents