

Two Capital Transfers in South Sudan (2013–2016)

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BRAC's TUP (Graduation) Programs

- BRAC pioneered a program in Bangladesh which provided livestock & training to “ultra-poor” households.
- Large-scale evaluation by Bandiera et al (2017); found
 - Increased holdings of productive assets;
 - Increase in women’s self-employment;
 - 7% increase in consumption expenditures.
- Replications (Banerjee et al. 2015) in Ethiopia, Ghana, Peru, Honduras, India, & Pakistan found results broadly consistent with Bangladesh study.

This paper

Study of TUP vs. Cash in S. Sudan; principal collaborators

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Our Question

The TUP programs give out productive assets (typically livestock) & training; that makes households better off.

Our Question

Does it matter what *sort* of asset one gives? What if one just gave a similar value of cash?

The South Sudan TUP Program

- Two short trainings (\approx 5 days)
 - General business skills (numeracy, bookkeeping)
 - Enterprise-specific skills
- Assets: Farming, ducks, goats, or small trade
 - Total market value \$350 or \$410
 - Accounts for 80-90% of average marginal cost of enrollment
- Weekly group meetings (modeled on MFIs) for 12 months

Cash Transfers

- Market value of TUP transfers measured at \$350-410
- 125 eligible HH's received the same amount in cash
- Gives the TUP framework an economically interesting, policy-relevant counterfactual
- Not announced to HH's until week before (no ex-ante change in expectations)

- Baseline Survey Fall 2013
- Asset transfers in December 2013 and March 2014
 - Interrupted by conflict
 - Had not yet seriously spread to Yei
 - (No record of transfer dates)
- Midline survey in 2014, immediately before cash transfers.
- Cash transfers completed June-July 2014
- Endline in Summer 2015
 - 12–13 months after cash transfers
 - 14 or 18 months after asset transfers
- Monthly Mobile Survey in 2016
 - June 2016 SSP floats; hyperinflation
 - Collected 6 consumption items for 6 months
 - Yields longer-term consumption estimates

Empirical Specification

ANCOVA specification:

$$Y_{it} = \sum_{t=2014}^{2015} \delta_t + \beta_t^{Cash} Cash_{it} + \beta_t^{TUP} TUP_{it} + \gamma Y_{i,2013} + \epsilon_{it}$$

- δ_t : Time fixed effects
- Estimate four treatment effects, $(2014, 2015) \times (TUP, Cash)$
- β_{2014}^{CSH} is a placebo test.
- Test $\beta_{2015}^{CSH} = \beta_{2014}^{TUP}$ and $\beta_{2015}^{TUP} = \beta_{2014}^{CSH}$

Asset Holdings

- Large effects on asset stock for TUP but not Cash (Standard Deviations in parentheses)

	Total	Productive
CTL mean	1225.61	337.60
TUP*2014	535.79*** (154.02)	361.80*** (74.19)
TUP*2015	624.79*** (146.01)	320.74*** (68.68)
CSH*2014	-125.86 (191.31)	18.50 (95.80)
CSH*2015	-49.99 (187.32)	5.00 (88.40)
<i>N</i>	1305.00	1247.00
$\beta_{2015}^{TUP} - \beta_{2015}^{CSH}$	674.78***	325.74***

What did cash households buy?

Amounts in South Sudanese Pounds

Use	%	Avg. Amt	Std
School	0.52	266	214
Sick	0.47	234	203
Food	0.47	150	202
Inventory	0.46	390	716
Save	0.36	193	190
Livestock	0.34	249	186
Clothes	0.32	136	160
Renovations	0.26	110	123

- TUP group substituted away from farmwork to livestock
- Both have *less* income from farming and agricultural wage labor

	Total	Farm	Livestock	Non-Farm
CTL mean	4325.54	773.05	640.33	3774.49
TUP	327.83 (455.95)	-142.20* (77.21)	281.12** (126.30)	86.24 (469.48)
CSH	7.92 (600.43)	-26.15 (100.82)	-83.81 (177.25)	61.80 (620.53)
$\beta^{TUP} - \beta^{CSH}$	319.91 (629.93)	-116.05 (105.79)	364.94** (174.74)	24.44 (651.27)
N	671.00	531.00	380.00	606.00

Consumption

	Total	Food	Non-durable	Durable
CTL mean	39.80*	27.46*	9.73	3.07
TUP*2014	9.34*** (2.26)	6.12*** (1.57)	1.94* (1.02)	1.28** (0.50)
TUP*2015	1.69 (2.15)	0.72 (1.50)	1.13 (0.96)	0.09 (0.47)
CSH*2014	-1.03 (2.80)	-0.97 (1.95)	0.96 (1.28)	-0.38 (0.62)
CSH*2015	5.66** (2.75)	3.50* (1.91)	2.17* (1.24)	0.06 (0.61)
TUP*2016	-1.22* (0.69)	-1.18** (0.53)		
CSH*2016	1.74** (0.86)	0.74 (0.66)		
N	1305.00	1295.00	1296.00	1260.00

Consumption Comparisons

	Total
TUP*2014 - CSH*2015	3.68
TUP*2015 - CSH*2016	-0.05
TUP*2016 - CSH*2016	-2.96***

Summary

- TUP group reports significantly higher assets stock and savings in 2015.
- Cash group moved away from farming. TUP group moved specifically towards livestock.
- Cash group reports higher savings (intensive) and consumption.
- Cash seems to have larger long-term effect on consumption, but timing makes this unclear.

