



Partnership for Economic Inclusion Impact Collaborative

Technical Workshop

June 14-15, 2023



Title of Impact Evaluation study

Country: Ethiopia

Name of Project:

Productive Inclusion in Urban Ethiopia:
teasing out training and grant impacts

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Background and context

The Urban Productive Safety Net and Jobs Project (UPSNJP, P169943) is financed with a US\$400 million grant from the World Bank. It builds on the Urban Productive Safety Net Project (UPSNP), from 11 to 83 cities.

Beneficiaries in the Safety Nets Program component of UPSNJP receive public works employment for three years.

Livelihood services component in Year 2,

- public works beneficiaries start bi-monthly life skills & financial literacy (LSFL) and coaching/mentoring
- they also receive business skills and business plan training for 10 days.
- A couple of months after training, 1st disbursement of livelihood grants to bank account, 2nd ~4 months later.

For some beneficiaries, the grant is used to expand existing business; for others it is starting a business.

Examples of these businesses include small retail shops, tailoring/sewing, selling own-baked goods, fruit/produce selling (guilet), and other street vendors.

Project innovations and scale

The UPSNJP livelihoods services component has been revamped based on the UPSNP experience:

- LSFL & coaching/mentoring:
 - Shift from 5-day classroom training to monthly sessions (21 months, 2 sessions/month)
 - Now a focus on business start-up pain points.
- Business skills and business plan training:
 - New curriculum
 - 10 days (split into two parts of 5 days each with one month gap between)
- Grant changes
 - Increase in grant amount
 - Given in two tranches (some form of monitoring appropriate use of the first tranche)

Motivation for the impact evaluation

The business skills and business plan training of UPSNJP is **demanding on government staff**. It is **crowded** (high trainee/trainer ratio). There is **limited follow-up**. And the training is **not flexible** in terms of schedule for trainees in terms of when they take the training. And there are concerns about **consistency and quality** (which the revamped training program seeks to address).

These are concerns not unique to a program like UPSNJP.

- Would alternative approaches in the UPSNJP be equally or much less effective in supporting future livelihoods of public works beneficiaries after the public works program (and its income support have ended)?

Main Policy Research Questions

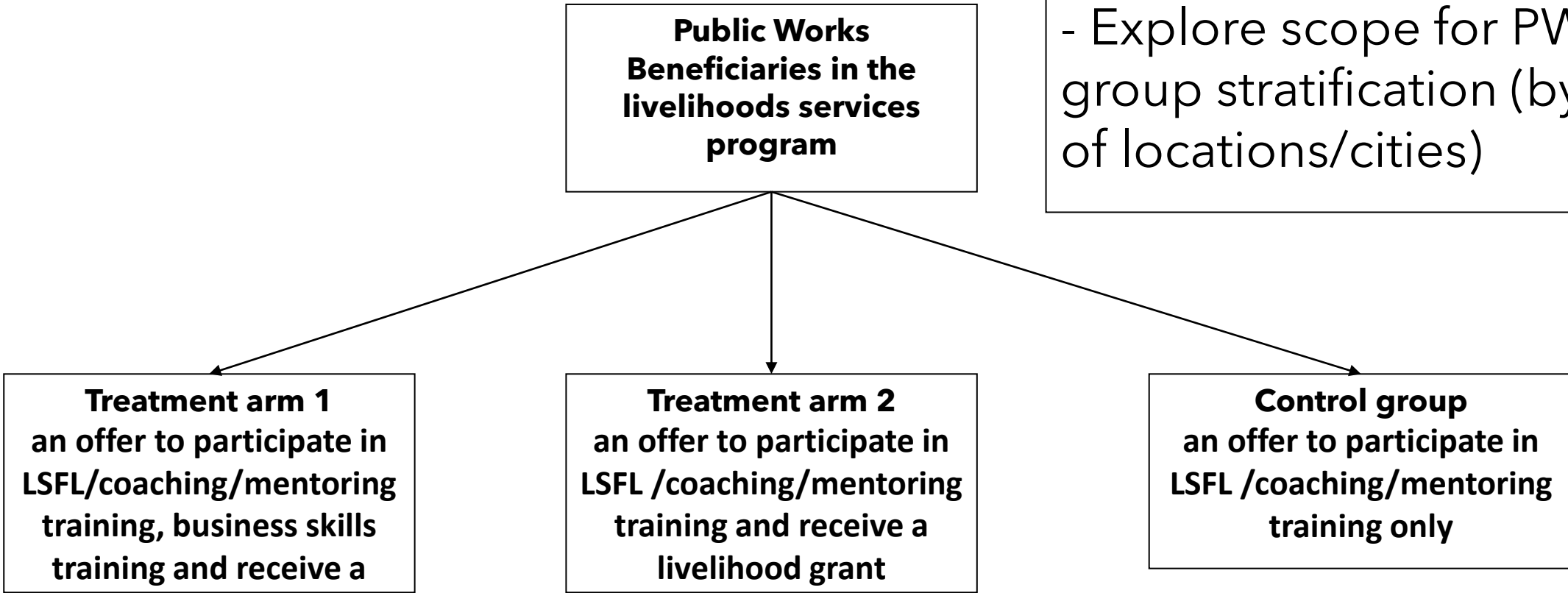
All beneficiaries will receive the LSFL and coaching/mentoring... The IE will ask:

What is the impact of receiving a grant *without* any business training? To what extent is capital constraining livelihoods.

What is the impact of receiving a grant AND business skills and business plan training? Does capital require training too to be impactful; how important is the business skills and business plan training to augment the impact of the livelihood grant

Methodology

- Likely random assignment of Public Works groups to the three T/C groups.
- Explore scope for PWs group stratification (by traits of locations/cities)



Key Outcomes

Outcome Domain	Level	Source
Income (levels and sources, including microenterprise profits and survivorship/expansion, business knowledge/practices)	household, individual, business	
Finance (practices and knowledge) and savings	household, individual	
Non-income wellbeing (mental health, subjective measures)	individual	

Open questions on impact evaluation design or implementation

- Spillovers of training knowledge or grants to the control group/areas, and general equilibrium effects
- Less concerned with take up of the program (based on past UPSNP)
- Sample size/statistical power to be done (of note: the large size of the program (both beneficiaries and cities/towns). Scope of program: >80,000 beneficiaries.

Implementation challenges

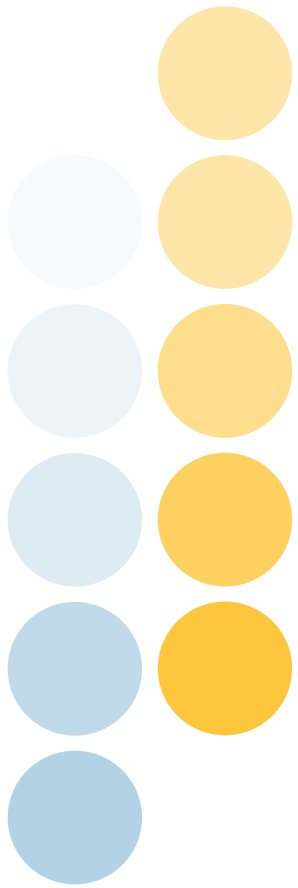
- IE (RCT) fatigue among UPSNJP stakeholders (though, on benefit did, these help inform a new IE)
- WB/Client willingness to forgo or delay grants to some (random) PWs groups. And if delayed, how long to enable measuring impact of getting the grant?
- WB/Client willingness to forgo training to some (random) PWs groups
- Funding for surveys (likely not available from the project)

Timeline and next steps

Possible mission in June 2023 to observe current Business skills and business plan training being completed for 1st batch of beneficiaries

Study will focus on the 2nd (last) batch of PWs beneficiaries:

- March 2023: Targeting completed
- May-October 2023: Awareness raising sessions
- Oct 2023: LSFL starts (21 months, ends by Dec 2025)
- May/June 2024: Business skills & planning training. **BASELINE BEFORE**
- Sept/Oct 2024: 1st disbursement of grants. **MID LINE AFTER**
- Jan/Feb 2025: 2nd disbursement of grants. **END LINE AFTER**



Thank you!

Presenter's name
Contact



PEI FUNDING PARTNERS



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