

Adding home-visits to a social protection program in Rwanda

Would adding a parenting program to a public works social protection program decrease violent interactions in households and improve child development? In a pilot in Rwanda, SIEF-supported researchers [evaluated](#) the Sugira Muryango (*Strengthen the Family*) program, where locally recruited coaches visited families with children between the ages of 6 and 36 months to provide feedback on caregivers' interactions with their children; to offer counseling on responsive caregiving, nutrition, hygiene, and non-violent interactions; and to help access formal and informal sources of support. Results of the randomized control trial were recently [published](#) in the journal *BMJ Global Health*. The home visiting program generated significant improvements in children's cognitive, language, and social-emotional development, increased fathers' engagement in childcare, and decreased the use of harsh disciplinary measures. Impacts, however, differed across the two measurement tools that were used to assess child development. While the home-visiting program significantly improved child development when measured through the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3), which are designed to screen children for developmental delays through interviews with caregivers, impacts were not significant when children were assessed through the Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool (MDAT), an observational task-based tool implemented by trained enumerators.



Measurement matters

Speaking of measurement tools....SIEF has a number of [resources](#) on measurement, including [A Toolkit for Measuring Early Childhood Development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#), introductory lectures on [psychometrics](#), and a [seminar](#) recording on how psychometrics can help impact evaluation.



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