Citation: Title Statement
Skills Development Project for Employability (PDCE), Cohort 2 (Baseline)
Authoring Entity / Primary Investigator
Africa Gender Innovation Lab (Léa Rouanet, Marine Gassier, Lacina Traore)
Other Identifications / Acknowledgements
Scope: Keywords and Topic Classifications
Vocational training
Skill development
Gender
Employability
Trades selection

Abstract

The Skill Development for Employability Project has been launched in 2015 by the government of the Republic of Congo, and jointly financed with the World bank. The project provides vocational training to young men and women in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. The World Bank Africa Gender Innovation Lab (GIL) is conducting an impact evaluation of one of the project's sub-component, in which beneficiaries enroll in a six or nine months technical training course, followed by a three months' internship, and a job search support program.

To reach its targets, the project is being rolled out over several years, training successively different cohorts of applicants. This dataset was generated through the baseline survey of second cohort participating in the subcomponent one. Applicants must be between 17 and 30-year-old, and have the possibility to choose between a number of trades including mechanics/auto-mechanics, electricity, welding, textile, carpentry, cooking, etc.

The program's main objectives are to increase participants' chances toward employment, by strengthening their technical and managerial skills. Moreover, the project is designed to support young women who wish to cross over to non-traditional sectors, which are typically dominated by men, but are more profitable. In other words, the program seeks to find solutions to address gender segregation in the labor market. The project is providing a daily transportation fees of 1500 CFA to young men and 2000 CFA to young women. A higher amount was provided to women, notably to encourage young mothers to participate to the program. Through these incentives, the project hopes to enroll about 50% women among the beneficiaries.

The Gender Innovation Lab department (GIL) of the World Bank is leading an impact evaluation on the project since 2015. The data presented in the following sections are issued from the baseline data collection of the second cohort applicants of the project.

Key variables
The baseline survey of the second cohort is designed to capture indicators on the following:
- Income
- Savings
- Employment

-   Education
-   Cognitive and Non-cognitive skills
-   Entrepreneurship
-   Aspiration and expectation
-   Professional project

Uses of data

The baseline data of this second cohort will be used to understand the variations of relevant indicators between baseline and endline of the second cohort. This baseline come after the midline of the first cohort which gave some interesting results about the project. This baseline aims to provide better understanding of the first cohort findings and address additional research questions through a higher sample size and adequate design of the evaluation.

SURVEY MODULES
ID= Identification
SE= Respondent's situation
ED= Education
EM= Employment
AR= Activities
EN= Entrepreneurship
EP= Productive equipment
PP= Professional project
AP= Past activities
EC= Saving
CR= Credit
TR= Transfers
DE= Spending
BP= Household assets
LM= Household members List
CF= Familial background
CC= Cognitive abilities
AS= Aspirations
GE= Gender and entrepreneurship
CN= Non-Cognitive abilities
CA= Agency
CD= Program application

Scope – Summary Data Description

COUNTRIES
Republic of Congo

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The impact evaluation and the project are conducted in the cities of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire of the Republic of Congo. The particularity of those two (2) cities being that, they contain about 70% of the country's population.

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals.

UNIVERSE

The data contain information on 4,427 individuals who received or not the program (control and treatment). These individuals have been interviewed after a vast sensitization toward the project, followed by the application collection process in both cities.

Methodology – Data Collection

TIME METHOD

The data collection started with Pointe-Noire first, before continuing with Brazzaville. Both data collection ended at the same period.

Timeline:

1. Application data collection for Pointe noire	June 13th – July 25th, 2018
2. Baseline data collection for Pointe Noire	October 24th – December 13th, 2018
3. Application data collection for Brazzaville	June 1st – July 29th, 2018
4. Baseline data collection for Brazzaville	November 9th – December 13th, 2018

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The overall sample of the study is estimated to be about 4427 individuals (control and treatment). This sample size has been reached with a number of replacements list available during the sampling process. To select the project's beneficiaries, applications were collected in all districts of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. As showed in the timeline table, the application process lasted two (2) months in both cities. In each city, a number of application center have opened to regularly collect the applications within the above timeline.

To be eligible to the program the following criteria were requested:

- Be aged between 17 and 30-year-old;
- Having been out of school for at least a year before the application;
- Have never start a University study;
- Have at least 6 years' education level;
- Be a Congolese national;

In the application center, the young men and women were helped by members of governments to fill an application form. After filling personal information requested on the form, they were randomly assigned between two (2) rooms. In room A, applicants were able to watch a video providing general information on each trade. The applicants assigned to room B, could watch video providing general information but also additional information on trading earnings. After the videos, the applicants were asked to select up to two trades for which they were interested in receiving training. This process was followed by a one-to-one interview with a trainer in their selected trades, during which they were also asked to take a test in reading and basic math.

For each trade, the goal was to select two times as many applications as there were available spots. A random draw was then conducted within each trade and each gender to assign applicants to control or treatment groups.

MODE OF DATA COLLECTION
The data was electronically collected (through Survey CTO) by the survey firm MDA[1] (Médecin d'Afrique) under the supervision of the GIL's field coordinator present in the country. The survey started in Pointe-Noire with 20 enumerators, 5 supervisors and 1 coordinator. The survey started in Brazzaville about 15 days later. The team was approximately the same size. For each survey (Brazzaville and Pointe Noire), the team received about 7 days of training, followed by a pretest of the questionnaire. On average, each interview lasted about 1.3 hours.

We surveyed a total of 4,427 individuals. The teams' supervisors had the responsibility to assist each enumerator for a number of interviews. That allowed the supervisors to identified the problematic questions and advice the whole team. Supervisors share the information with other teams and bring the concerned module or questions into discussion during the daily briefing. The whole process was based on the close collaboration between supervisors and enumerators.

The field coordinator was also in charge of not only organizing the field work, but also assist interviews of enumerators showing high level of discrepancies by the data quality control. The coordinator organizes a daily debriefing session, addressing remarks on different aspects observed the day before (formulation of question, mistakes, difficulties, etc.). The debriefing was a way to share remarks with all the team, to give explanations on questions that seem to be problematic, and answer questions coming from enumerators. The debriefing was also an opportunity to share the findings generated by the back-checks. Back-checkers were receiving a random list to survey from the GIL's team (three different shorter questionnaires' versions of about 30mn). The results of the back-checks (difference between back-check and real data) were used first of all to advice the team on questions that did not seem to be understood, and second, to identify surveys with many problematics results, for which enumerators were asked to return to the respondent to make corrections.
In addition to the back-check, the GIL team also ran quality control checks every two days, as the data was being collected. Based on these, additional verifications and re-visits were conducted by the team in the field.

---

[1] A research firm present in Congo Brazzaville

WEIGHTING
None

Related Studies
None

Related Publications
None