Citation: Title Statement

Skills Development Project for Employability (PDCE), Cohort 1 (Baseline)

Authoring Entity / Primary Investigator

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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 its sub-component, in which beneficiaries enroll in a six-month technical training course, followed by a three-month 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 the first cohort participating in this subcomponent. In the future, it will be expanded to include the subsequent cohorts of participants. 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, hospitality, carpentry, cooking. Following their internship, they receive support from the program to launch their job search or independent activity.

The program's main objectives is to increase participants' level of 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.

Key variables

The baseline survey is designed to capture indicators on the following:

- Income
- Employment
- Education
- Cognitive and Non-cognitive skills

- Entrepreneurship
- Aspiration and expectation
- Professional project

Uses of data
The baseline data of this first cohort will be used to understand the variations in relevant indicators between baseline and endline. A baseline data collection is planned for each cohort until a sufficiently large sample, allowing a precise evaluation of impact, has been generated.

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.

UNIT OF ANALYSIS
Individuals.

UNIVERSE
These datasets are the baseline data of the first cohort of the project. The data contain information on 880 individuals who received or not the program.

Methodology – Data Collection

TIME METHOD
Baseline data collection for Pointe noire has been completed first, before baseline data collection was carried out in Brazzaville.

Timeline:

1. Application data collection for Pointe noire	12 October – 17 October, 2015
2. Baseline data collection for Pointe Noire	27 November – 10 December, 2015
3. Application data collection for Brazzaville	16 November – 20 November 2015
4. Baseline data collection for Brazzaville	22 December – 6 January 2016

SAMPLING PROCEDURE
The overall sample of the study is estimated to be about 3500 individuals (control and treatment). For this first cohort, the study sample was 929 individuals – 880 were surveyed.
To select the project's beneficiaries, applications were collected in all districts of Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. A team spent a full day in each district collecting applications and conducting a pre-screening of interested candidates. The project spent 5 days to collect applications in the 9 districts of Brazzaville and 6 days in the 6 districts of Pointe-Noire.

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 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 received information on the different trades offered by the program, before selecting 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 maths.

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

MODE OF DATA COLLECTION

The data was electronically collected by the survey firm MDA (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, but also included 2 back-checkers. The back-checkers were hired independently and not linked to a specific team to allow them to better perform their role. 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.

The survey firm was provided with a sample of 929 individuals to be interviewed, of which 880 were actually surveyed (others refused, were absent or could not be found). During the survey, the field coordinator was organizing 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.

WEIGHTING
None

Related Studies
None

Related Publications
None