



RURAL SYNERGIES



# IMPACT EVALUATION

*Building bridges between social and  
productive inclusion policies*



With the technical and financial support of:

## Synergies between social protection and rural development programmes. Main results of the impact evaluations in Latin America and Africa

### KEY MESSAGES

**C**oordination between social protection and rural productive development programmes can help poor and at-risk households escape the poverty trap and break its intergenerational transmission.



This has been demonstrated by the results of a set of evaluations carried out on programmes of this type in two countries in Latin America and four in Africa. Although these are evaluations carried out before the socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19, the results are promising in terms of their contribution to increasing the resilience of households to external shocks. An important argument to promote strategies of this nature, facing the need for promoting reactivation processes in the rural sector.



With the aim of making the case studies for each country comparable, it was decided to carry out the evaluations around five groups of standard variables: i) productive; ii) income, poverty and local economic development; iii) financial; iv) food security and education and; v) psychological and social.



The results associated with productive variables vary by country, the evaluation that has been undertaken and study programmes. However, it can be concluded that positive effects were found with respect to productive assets, dedication to work in secondary activities, the number of agricultural products, the average size of herds and crop production, among others.

The results point to important and positive effects with respect to the interaction between productive projects and social protection programmes, particularly in terms of food security and nutrition.



In regard to psychological and social variables, the evaluations found that the intervention of productive projects and social protection programmes have positive effects on the subjective well-being, expectations, aspirations, social capital, empowerment and hope.



In case studies that include variables of poverty, a reduction was noted in poverty gaps as well as multidimensional poverty indices.



Regarding access to financial services, the results are also positive. Specifically, in terms of the number of households that make savings, the amount of savings made and the reduction in informal loans.



Although the impacts in terms of income are not evident in all cases, some studies, such as the CGP + SPRINGS evaluation (Lesotho) and the Haku Wiñay + Juntos evaluation (Peru), identified positive impacts on household incomes.





**T** HIS DOCUMENT SUMMARISES THE MAIN RESULTS OF THE  
IMPACT EVALUATIONS IMPLEMENTED IN THE SIX COUNTRIES  
INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY: COLOMBIA, ETHIOPIA, LESOTHO,  
MALI, PERU AND ZAMBIA.

### **Why is coordination between social protection and rural productive development important?**

Coordination between social protection and rural productive development can help poor and vulnerable households overcome the poverty trap and break its intergenerational transmission. While social protection provides cash support and alleviates, in part, the conditions of poverty, productive development programmes foster the means for a sustained exit from poverty.

Coordination strategies of this type are particularly relevant in rural areas of Latin America and Africa, where the greatest number of people and households living in conditions of poverty are concentrated, and where opportunities for income generation through access to paid employment are scarce. At the same time, a high degree of informality prevails in terms of land tenure, trade, and income-generating activities in general, as well as a low degree of association and organisation among producers. Consequently, the households of small farmers are subject to external risks and impacts, and present a low resilience to such shocks. Moreover, they also face difficulties in accessing markets with their products, as these do not always function properly, or simply do not exist. The result is that small farmer households living in poverty tend to adopt low-risk, low-return strategies as livelihoods, which affect their income-generating potential and consequent food consumption. This, in turn, affects decisions regarding education and healthcare, which are given less priority over work and food, which usually results in the intergenerational transmission of poverty and vulnerability.

This is why a strategy that addresses these different problems through an integrated approach, in order to provide immediate cash support, promote the participation of households in healthcare and education systems, through the conditions associated with cash transfer programmes, and generating capacities to unleash the productive potential of poor households and support them with assets and inputs for the production and marketing of their products, represents a good strategy in order to transit towards a sustained exit from poverty.

## METHODOLOGIES

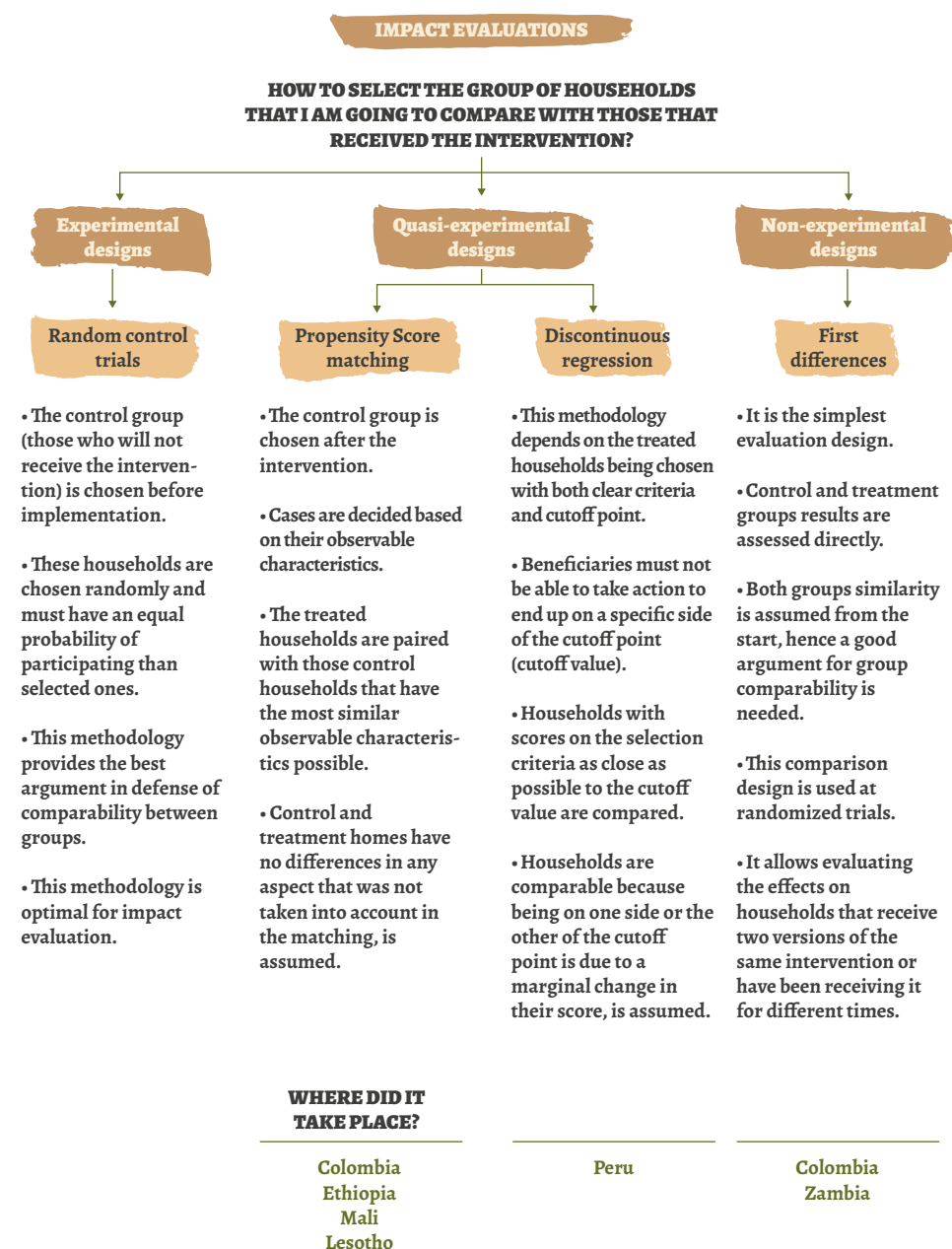
The main characteristics of each case study are summarised below.

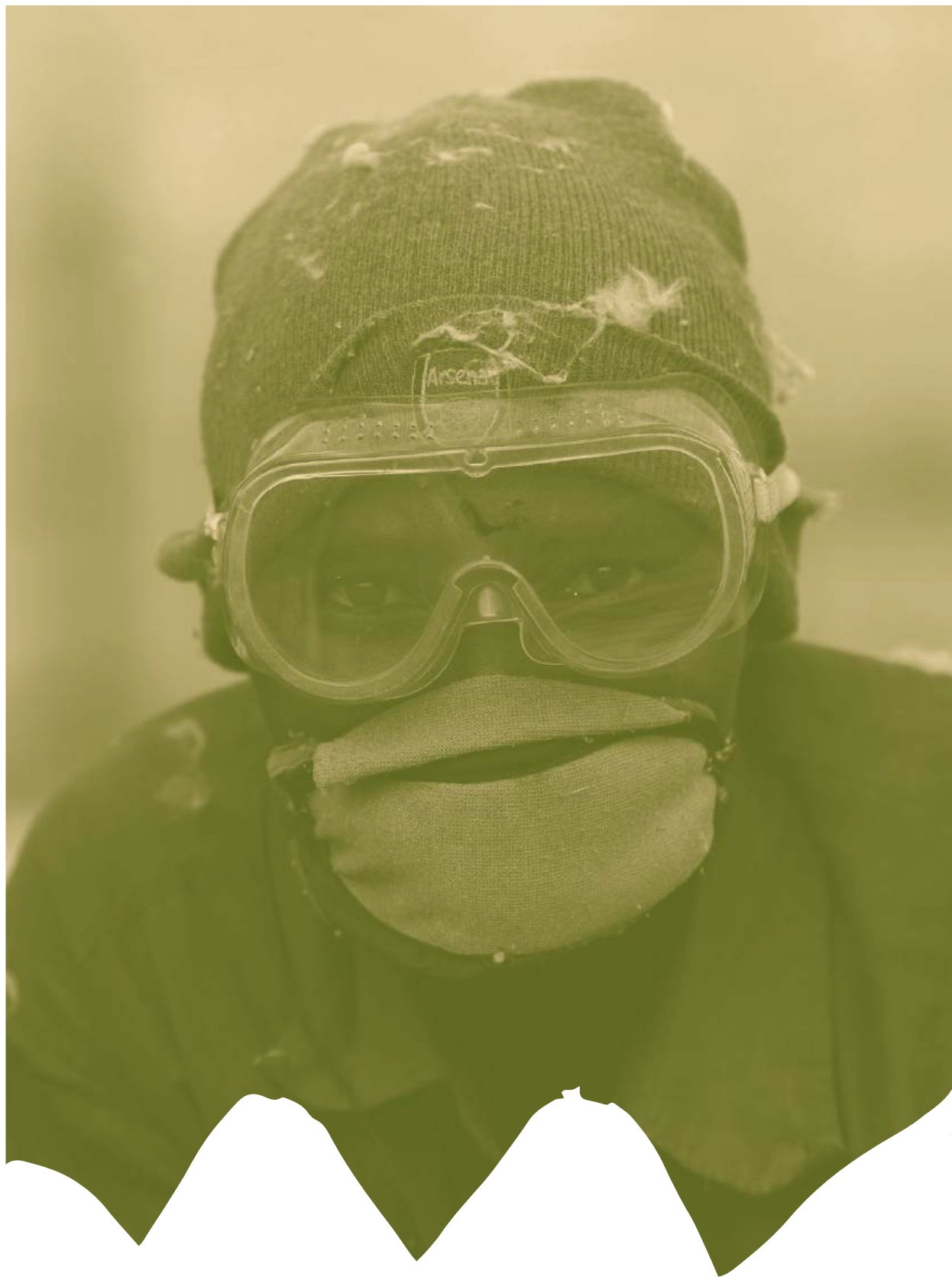
Country	Evaluated Programmes	Quantitative method	Variables to be evaluated	Qualitative method
<b>Colombia Case 1</b>	Familias en su Tierra (FEST)  Estrategia UNIDOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matching Analysis- Propensity Score Matching (PSM)</li> <li>• Four household comparison groups: i) Only FEST, ii) only UNIDOS, iii) FEST + UNIDOS and iv) neither FEST nor UNIDOS</li> <li>• 2,377 surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production</li> <li>• Productive assets</li> <li>• Dedication to work</li> <li>• Food security</li> <li>• Social capital</li> <li>• Consumption</li> <li>• Savings and loans</li> <li>• Aspirations and expectations</li> <li>• Empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of groups of households that receive different combinations of interventions in two zones of the country</li> <li>• Interviews: General aspects of the programmes, the impacts on variables, synergies and complementarities</li> <li>• 49 interviews</li> </ul>
<b>Colombia Case 2</b>	Programa Proyectos Productivos (PPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of treatment intensity</li> <li>• Impact of the programme according to period of exposure</li> <li>• Two groups of households: active and graduated</li> <li>• 880 surveys in eight departments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Productive assets</li> <li>• Household income</li> <li>• Production</li> <li>• Food security</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Savings and loans</li> <li>• Social capital</li> <li>• Aspirations and expectations</li> <li>• Empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the sample between Active and Graduated households</li> <li>• Interviews: Identification of households, timeline for taking part in various programmes, Family Productive Projects, perception of impacts and changes in well-being</li> <li>• Semi-structured interviews</li> <li>• 46 interviews with returned families from the two study groups in eight departments</li> </ul>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP)  Integrated Nutrition Social Cash Transfer (IN-SCT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double-difference approach with Inverse probability weighting (IPW)</li> <li>• One treatment group</li> <li>• Two alternative control groups.</li> <li>• Two samples: mother-child sample (1,920 households) and households with children under-5 years old (1,200 households)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop and livestock production</li> <li>• Non-farm enterprises</li> <li>• Kitchen gardens</li> <li>• Adult labour supply</li> <li>• Assets and tools</li> <li>• Loans</li> <li>• Extension services</li> </ul>	

Country	Evaluated Programmes	Quantitative method	Variable to be evaluated	Qualitative method
<b>Lesoto</b>	Child Grants Programme (CGP)  Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Government Service Support (SPRINGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propensity Score Matching (PSM)</li> <li>• Local Economy-Wide Impact Evaluation (LEW-IE)</li> <li>• Three treatment arms: i) Households receiving both CGP and SPRINGS; ii) households receiving CGP but not SPRINGS; iii) households receiving neither the CGP nor SPRINGS</li> <li>• Field-lab experiments</li> <li>• 2,014 surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income</li> <li>• Consumption</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Market engagement</li> <li>• Financial inclusion</li> <li>• Risk attitudes</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Dietary practices</li> <li>• Local development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triangulation of three methods: Focus group discussions; key informant interviews; in-depth household case studies</li> </ul>
<b>Mali</b>	Nioro Cash+ Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-experimental design: Inverse-probability-weighted regression adjustment (IPWRA)</li> <li>• 58 villages, 36 treated and 25 comparison villages</li> <li>• Treatment and control group: Cash Only, Cash+, and control.</li> <li>• 1,151 surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm and non-farm production</li> <li>• Food consumption and other goods</li> <li>• Hygiene</li> <li>• Food security</li> <li>• Dietary diversity</li> <li>• Future expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative field survey</li> <li>• Two municipalities: One urban and one rural</li> <li>• In each municipality, two villages were identified: One with beneficiaries of Cash+ another with beneficiaries of Cash Only</li> </ul>

Country	Evaluated Programmes	Quantitative method	Variables to be evaluated	Qualitative method
<b>Peru</b>	<p>Programa Nacional de Apoyo Directo a los más Pobres – Juntos</p> <p>Haku Wiñay (HW) + Soft Skills Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinuous regression evaluation of HW and saturation design</li> <li>Complementary intervention to HW, focused on developing soft skills that allow goals to be obtained</li> <li>Three groups of households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) HW + Juntos;</li> <li>ii) HW + Juntos + Soft Skills; iii) Juntos</li> </ul> </li> <li>Surveys - Baseline 2017-2018: 999</li> <li>Surveys - Intermediate line 2020: 782</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income</li> <li>Agricultural production</li> <li>Psychological variables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interviews with programme beneficiaries in nine population centres, carried out in 2019.</li> <li>Interviews with “yachachiqs” from a population centre, carried out in 2018</li> </ul>
<b>Zambia</b>	<p>Home Grown School Feeding (HGSE)</p> <p>Conservation Agriculture Scale-Up (CASU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-test only non-equivalent control group design, with one wave of post-intervention data collected between October 2017 and January 2018</li> <li>Four treatment arms: HGSE-only arm; CASU-only arm; HGSE + CASU arm; and Control arm</li> <li>Microsimulation exercise</li> <li>3,636 surveys</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop production</li> <li>Crop sales</li> <li>Livestock production</li> <li>Total gross income</li> <li>Adoption of conservation agriculture</li> <li>Food nutrition and security</li> <li>Schooling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparative analysis in two sites: One a HGSE-only site and the other a CASU + HGSE site</li> <li>Focus Groups Discussions, Key Informant Interviews and in-depth household case studies</li> <li>72 community interviews</li> </ul>







## MAIN RESULTS

This section describes the main results of the impact evaluations. In the first part, a cross-sectional analysis is carried out using 5 groups of variables: i) productive; ii) income, poverty and local economic development; iii) financial; iv) food security and education and; v) psychological and social.

The results synthesis tables show effects on five groups of variables. With respect to the variables of the **productive** type, positive effects of the programmes were found in production variables such as productive assets (FEST and PPP), livestock (PPP, PSNP + IN-SCT, Nioro Cash+ and CASU + HGSE). Additionally, positive results were found associated with marketing (CASU + HGSE) and market access (CGP + SPRINGS). Finally, positive effects were found in technological variables associated with livestock production (HW).

Moreover, when analysing variables associated with **income, poverty and local economic development**, it can be established that the results are positive. Firstly, the two studies that include poverty indicators in their analysis, PPP and CGP + SPRINGS, indicate a reduction in said indicators. Additionally, CGP + SPRINGS and HGSE + CASU included in the analysis simulation exercises to identify impacts on local economies. These identified positive effects on variables associated with income, market access and distributional impacts of combined programmes. Secondly, two studies showed positive effects on indicators associated with income (Haku Wiñay and CGP + SPRINGS).

Regarding the results associated with **financial variables**, it was observed that the main effects are on variables associated with savings and different types of loans. When analysing the studies that included savings as the analysis variable, it was found that more households state that they are making savings (FEST + UNIDOS and CGP + SPRINGS). However, the effect is not only on the number of households making savings; an increase was also noted

in the amount that households are actually saving (CGP + SPRINGS). Furthermore, positive effects in terms of loans were also identified, highlighting reductions in informal loans (FEST + UNIDOS, PPP and CGP + SPRINGS) and increases in formal loans (PPP).

In terms of **food security**, all the studies that included these types of variables revealed positive results. In some cases, this was shown through the transition in the status for household food security, from moderate/severe food insecurity to mild food insecurity (FEST + UNIDOS and PPP). Furthermore, in other cases, positive effects were found in variables of food security or nutrition (CGP + SPRINGS, Nioro Cash+ and CASU + HGSE). Within this same category, educational variables are also included, the most representative case being that of Zambia, where the combination of CASU and HGSE had negative impacts on children's schooling.

Finally, some studies included **psychological and social** variables, among which were the following: expectations and aspirations, social capital, empowerment, subjective well-being, and perceptions regarding the control of life and hope. The results obtained from this group of variables indicate that the programmes have a positive impact on this group of variables.

As has been shown throughout this section, it can be established that the studies found that **synergies**, that is to say, the combination of social protection programmes and rural productive development, have had combined impacts on the groups of variables that have been analysed. Positive synergistic effects were identified for variables such as amount of livestock, market access/marketing, food security, nutrition, income, savings, loans, and all psychological and social variables. Furthermore, it was concluded that the combination of these two types of programmes can contribute to the reduction of issues such as poverty, informal loans and coping strategies.

## SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS



### PRODUCTIVE

#### FEST

- + productive assets
- + dedication to work in secondary activities

#### PPP

- + productive assets
- + livestock products
- food crop products

#### PSNP + IN-SCT

- + livestock
- + production of livestock by products
- + average herd size
- + crop production

#### CGP + SPRINGS

- + access to markets

#### Nioro Cash+

- + livestock production

#### Haku Wiñay

- + new technologies

#### CASU + HGSE

- + livestock
- + marketing



### INCOME, POVERTY AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### PPP

- poverty

#### CGP + SPRINGS

- poverty gap
- + income
- + consumption

#### Haku Wiñay

- + income

#### CASU + HGSE

- + total revenues
- poverty (simulation)
- + income distribution (simulation)



### FOOD SECURITY AND EDUCATION

#### FEST + UNIDOS

- severe food insecurity
- + mild food insecurity

#### PPP

- moderate food insecurity
- + mild food insecurity

#### CGP + SPRINGS

- + dietary diversity

#### Nioro Cash+

- + food security

#### CASU + HGSE

- + food security
- schooling



### FINANCES AND RISKS

#### FEST + UNIDOS

- + savings
- informal loans

#### PPP

- + formal loans
- informal loans

#### CGP + SPRINGS

- + households saving and borrowing money
- + money saved and borrowed
- negative coping strategies
- + willingness to take risks



### PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL

#### FEST + UNIDOS

- + subjective well-being
- + expectations
- + social capital

#### PPP

- + empowerment
- + subjective well-being
- + social capital

#### Nioro Cash+

- + aspirations for children's education

#### Haku Wiñay

- + locus of control

#### Haku Wiñay + Soft Skills Programme

- + internal locus of control
- powerful others index

## COLOMBIA

### Familias en su Tierra and the Estrategia UNIDOS

This impact evaluation assesses the synergies and complementarities between the FEST programme (rural productive development) and the Estrategia UNIDOS (social protection). The impacts evaluated in this case were regarding variables of productive development, food security, social capital, income, savings, loans, expectations and empowerment.

**Synergistic effects were identified in variables such as informal savings, food security, perception of well-being and social capital.** Firstly, in terms of savings, a positive effect of 9 percentage points was observed in informal savings for FEST households. Additionally, a synergy was identified when the household was served jointly by the two programmes. Although this effect could be largely attributed to FEST, the qualitative work found that household members mentioned the role of co-managers as advisers on issues of savings and the creation of savings groups; this was attributed to the UNIDOS Strategy. Likewise, a synergy was observed between FEST and UNIDOS regarding the variable of informal-type loans, which translates into a reduction of 4.9 percentage points.

With respect to the variables for **food security**, a synergistic space was also identified between the two interventions: FEST contributed to reducing severe food insecurity and increasing the percentage of households with only mild food insecurity. This reflects a transition towards food security for households that were beneficiaries of FEST. When analysing those households that benefited from both programmes, an increase in the percentage of households experiencing mild insecurity was observed, confirming the transition towards food security. Nevertheless, although the effect of UNIDOS on the variables of food security is indirect, the talks by the co-managers of UNIDOS reinforced healthy eating habits, which may also have been strengthened through the implementation of kitchen gardens promoted by FEST, which would thus represent the combination of their respective efforts.

In **subjective-type** variables, such as aspirations and expectations, it was found that FEST improved the participants' perception of themselves thanks to the strengthening of productive activities. Likewise, the two programmes operate thanks to the fact that the participants have improved their situation and consequently feel more at ease, comfortable and animated.

With respect to **social capital**, effects were found in both quantitative as well as qualitative terms. Both FEST and UNIDOS, through their community work in FEST projects and in the meetings and training workshops set up by social organisations linked to UNIDOS, seem to have positively affected the perception of joint work, support and cooperation among the participants.

## COLOMBIA

### Programa Proyectos Productivos

This case study was based on an analysis of the Programa Proyectos Productivos and sought to capture the effect of the Programme on beneficiary households according to their degree of exposure (months) to the programme. A qualitative component was included to explain possible complementarities with other types of interventions. The variables of interest in this study were productive development, income, poverty, food security, financial services, social capital, well-being and empowerment.

The evaluation results suggest that the programme generated **positive effects with respect to different variables**. It was found that the greatest growth achieved by households was regarding the **value of assets**, which happens when they are near to consolidating the Productive Project, and that this becomes stable once participation in the programme has concluded. It was also found that the **number of livestock products** increases when there are more months of exposure to the programme; however, in contrast to this result, and over a period of time, households were found **to reduce their agricultural output**. In spite of the aforementioned, after the 45th month of exposure, an upward trend was again noted in the diversification of both agricultural and livestock products, which suggests that the reduction in crop output was a temporary strategy while the productive system was being organised.

Furthermore, **in terms of poverty and food security, the study identified positive results**. It was found that households reduced their level of poverty; on average, households witnessed a reduction of between one and two deprivations of the MPI<sup>1</sup> during the implementation of the programme and following their participation in it. Regarding Food Security, the analysis showed that during their time of exposure to the programme, households seem to be transitioning from moderate insecurity to mild insecurity. After month 40, both types of insecurity were found to be reduced, which would imply that households move consistently towards a state of food security.

Regarding the effects related to **financial services, it was observed that households reduced, on average, the probability of using informal loans** by 30% and increased the probability of accessing to formal loans by 20%.

Finally, a positive impact was also identified with respect to participation in the programme or other interventions on the **perception of households regarding well-being, social capital and empowerment**. Specifically, it was established that the coordination between the PPP and other interventions has allowed the strengthening of formal and informal community organisations; productive projects have impacts on the perception of well-being from the start of implementation and even after graduation. Furthermore, graduated households presented an increase of around 20 percentage points on the scale of roles, and showed improvements in the equity of household work perception.



<sup>1</sup> The Multidimensional Poverty Index (IPM) is made up of 15 deprivations related to the educational conditions of the household, as well as conditions of childhood and youth, work, health, and access to public housing services and housing conditions. In this case, a reduction in the MPI indicates that some of these conditions have improved.



## ETHIOPIA

This study measured the impacts of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) and its combination with the Integrated Nutrition Social Cash Transfer Package (IN-SCT). It focused on crop and livestock production, non-farm enterprises, kitchen gardens, adult labour supply, assets and tools as well as access to loans and extension services, using two samples.

In the mother-child sample, the PSNP + IN-SCT produced **positive productive impacts**, especially in the livestock sector, where both the share of households owning some **livestock and the average herd size** increased substantially. The PSNP + IN-SCT also led to increased **production of livestock by-products**, while the impact on revenues from sales of by-products were insignificant (although sizable and positive). There were limited positive impacts on the crop sector concentrated around cash crops, whose production increased both in terms of extension and average harvested amount. However, the majority of crops were unaffected.

The area of worked land was also unaffected by the programme. Hence, the **increases in crop production** may be the result of improved **land productivity** from better production technology, changes in crop variety, or increased on-farm labour supply, among other possible causes. As to the hypothesis of **improved production technology**, the evaluation noticed that the PSNP + IN-SCT led to an increase in the distribution of ploughs and in the average number of pack animals. No less exposure of crops to shocks was found such as plant diseases and weeds. Additionally, the study documented an increase in **crop diversification** as a result of the PSNP + IN-SCT intervention. Finally, the study found a reduction of paid labour supply in both the agriculture and non-agriculture sector. Outside of farm production, the PSNP + IN-SCT led also to increased **non-farm entrepreneurial activity**, lending support to the idea of enhanced livelihood diversification.

In the sample of households with children aged under-5, the PSNP + IN-SCT produced almost **no productive impacts** with very few exceptions. The share of those involved in livestock and the average herd size were not affected by the programme. The study did not document any impacts on production and revenues from sales of livestock by-products. In the crop sector, the programme led to a reduction in the share of cereal growers, while more farmers started growing inset. The average harvest was unaffected for all major crops.

## LESOTHO

This research explored the impacts of the Child Grants Programme (CGP) and Sustainable Poverty Reduction through Income, Nutrition and Access to Government Services (SPRINGS) on four specific areas: household welfare and poverty; financial inclusion and risk attitudes; nutrition and effects on the local economy. This section illustrates the principal results for each area.

In terms of household welfare and poverty, the effect of CGP + SPRINGS contributed to reduce the **poverty gap**. Concerning **income and market engagement**, the evaluation found a substantial increase in income from sales of fruits and vegetables in the group of beneficiaries' households from both programmes.

Regarding **financial inclusion and risk-taking attitudes**, the evaluation found that the combination of the CGP and SPRINGS resulted in a significant increase in the share of households **saving and borrowing money** (almost 370% and 115% increase, respectively). There was also an increase in the **amount of money saved and borrowed** (an approximately 100% increase). Additionally, the evaluation found a reduction of **negative coping strategies**, such as cutting out meals, going into debt - being forced to borrow from loan sharks engaging in daily piece work, or child labour.

In terms of nutrition, dietary practices and knowledge, the qualitative and quantitative analyses showed that the programmes resulted in an improvement of **dietary diversity** due to an increase in the consumption of green vegetables, fruits, organic meat, dairy products and legumes.

Finally, the research investigated the impact of CGP and CGP + SPRINGS on the **local economy**, studying the effect of the programmes on **market demand and supply**. Four main findings emerged from the LEWIE analysis. Firstly, CGP created both nominal and real income multipliers. Secondly, combining CGP with keyhole gardens and savings groups, individually or in combination, led to higher real income multipliers. Thirdly, the combination of CGP with increased access to markets, which is supposed to reduce transaction costs, increased the real income impact of CGP and CGP + SPRINGS. Finally, LEWIE analysis suggests that CGP alone and in combination with SPRINGS generate benefits that exceed the program's own costs.



## MALI

This subsection presents the impact of the Nioro Cash+ Project across in the conditions and livelihoods of households, food security, diet, livestock production, non-farming activities, food consumption, hygiene, and aspirations and expectations about the future.

The project supported **livestock production** through the distribution of goats and the provision of technical assistance for each household benefiting from the Cash+ kit. A significant increase was observed in livestock production among the Cash+ beneficiaries. The **average gross income from livestock** for Cash+ beneficiaries was 68.5% and 88.2% greater than it would have been if they had been in the control group or received Cash Only, respectively. Households receiving Cash+ also had a volume of livestock that was 85.4% higher than if they had received just Cash Only. However, the qualitative study revealed that the quantity of livestock feed given to the Cash+ beneficiaries (50 kg) was not sufficient for the duration of the project and led some people to buy more with their own money, which may have been detrimental to other vital human needs.

In terms of **food security**, the study found a significant impact of the Cash+ treatment on beneficiaries, compared to the situation where they had not been included in the programme. On average, the proportion of households who never had to worry about having enough food increased by 70.5% with Cash+. The Cash+ beneficiaries were also 7.1% less likely to experience any level of food insecurity than if they had received Cash Only.

Regarding aspirations and expectations, the quantitative study did not find any significant impacts of the programme on the respondents' expectations of future better socioeconomic. However, the study did observe positive and significant impacts of the programme on the **aspirations for children's education**. The Cash Only and Cash+ beneficiaries were, respectively, 51.9% and 16.3% more likely to aspire that their children would reach a university level of education compared to non-beneficiaries.

## PERU

The impact evaluation in the case of Peru sought to ascertain if the Haku Wiñay (HW) rural productive development programme has had an impact on income and the adoption of new technologies, with respect to the population that are beneficiaries of the Juntos programme. Furthermore, the evaluation included a component to estimate the direct impacts of coaching and possible indirect impacts (spillover) in those households that did not participate in the soft-skills programme.

The results showed an increase in annual income of almost PEN 1,400 (US\$ ppp 803) for households in those population centres that took part in HW. This is a considerable rise in income that represents an increase of more than 30%.

Regarding the changes in the form of agricultural production, the results showed that the programme was able to foster the adoption of new technologies.

- **Vegetable cultivation.** In interviews with programme beneficiaries and the “yachachiqs”,<sup>2</sup> two important cultivation practices were identified: the sowing of certain vegetables. Although the results show that the programme led to an almost 22% increase in the percentage of households that plant vegetables, there are no impacts recorded for the described cultivation techniques.
- **Use and preparation of processed organic fertilisers.** The impact is greater in the use of fertilisers (a rise of 33%) than in their preparation (a rise of 11%). Given the timing of the intervention and the duration of organic fertilisers, it is highly likely that households are using the fertilisers prepared during the programme (together with the yachachiq or by the yachachiq without the collaboration of the beneficiaries).

- **Sprinkler irrigation technologies.** Sprinkler irrigation uses less water than gravity irrigation, and neither does it lead to erosion of the soil. The results show an estimated impact of 20% in the use of this technology.
- **Cultivation of pastures.** The programme increased the percentage of producers that cultivated pastures and the hectares of such cultivated land. The estimated effect for the percentage of producers that cultivated pastures stands at 11%, while for hectares of cultivated pasture, the effect stands at 0.3 hectares. The programme aimed for the cultivation of 0.05 hectares per beneficiary.
- **Breeding of small animals.** Positive impacts were observed in the use of new technologies (barns) to care for such animals. The use of barns recorded a 23% increase.

Regarding the psychological variables, the evaluation found that having an initial Locus of Control Index above the median had a positive effect on the level of total income in the intermediate results. The locus of control index measures a person's perception of control of their life. This was taken for the entire sample and was not conditioned to belonging to a participating HW population centre. This implies that the baseline psychological variables do not seem to determine the success of HW in terms of the income levels obtained.



<sup>2</sup> The yachachiq are small farmers or technicians with a small-farmer background who are recognised as having produced and gathered knowledge related to the daily activities involved in rural work, and who are valued by the community. Within the framework of the programme, they provide training and technical assistance using the small-farmer to small-farmer training methodology.

## ZAMBIA

Finally, regarding the evaluation of the supplementary soft skills programme that HW beneficiaries received, the results show that the probability of using sheds for guinea pigs increased by 17%. No effects were identified regarding the sale of guinea pigs or the number of these animals that were possessed by the small farmers.

Furthermore, it was found that for psychological variables, participating in coaching increases the internality index and reduces the powerful others index.<sup>3</sup> This means that there is an increase in the belief that one's life is determined by one's actions, but at the same time an increase in the belief that there are people in the environment who end up influencing these outcomes.

This case study brought together the results from three evaluation processes, in an attempt to build a more integrated picture of the results of the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme and the Conservation Agriculture Scale-Up (CASU). The study evaluated impacts on variables of production and welfare.

CASU and CASU + HGSF mainly show positive impacts on productive variables, while the HGSF featured mixed impacts. In terms of **marketing by farmers**, maize and groundnuts were the most marketed crops in the sample; the increase in the number of sellers was considerably larger than the impacts observed for single programmes. Additionally, **total revenues** increased in all three groups, a result generally sustained by the qualitative study when it reported that households have changed their use of harvests, from mostly keeping products for household consumption to now being able to not only consume them but sell them as well.

However, the share of farmers engaged in **raising livestock** was around 80% for the CASU-only and the combined arm; falling to 60% in the control arm and to 43% in the HGSF group. Engagement in **livestock by-product production** was relatively low in the study sample; it varied between 12% in the CASU arm and 1.6% in HGSF. Both the CASU and the combined programmes led to considerable increases in the share of farmers dealing with by-products, while the HGSF produced no significant results for this variable. The evaluation also examined farmers' involvement in **livestock markets** in terms of spread and sale revenues. The most-traded animals were goats and chickens, between 10% and 23% of farmers sold small ruminants.



<sup>3</sup> The Locus of Control Index is made up of the Internality, Powerful Others and Chance indices: the first refers to how much a person believes that they have control over their own life; the second and third refer to whether a person considers that the events of their life are controlled by other people or by chance, respectively.



CASU increased the beneficiaries' market engagement, as they sold more cows, goats and chickens. The HGSF programme was associated mainly with a reduction in the sale of animals.

Concerning total income, the study found that the HGSF programme led to a 40% reduction in **gross income**. CASU had no statistically significant impact, but it did lead to an increase in livestock income. The combined treatment increased gross income by around 43%, driven mostly by the crop sector and non-farm business sales.

Regarding **food security and schooling indicators**, the study highlighted positive effects of offering meals on both groups of outcomes. However, considering the impacts of the HGSF, the impacts on schooling are cancelled out and those on food security become negative. The CASU project had positive impacts on food security, while not affecting schooling decisions, as had been expected. The combination of CASU and HGSF led to positive impacts on food security and some negative impacts on schooling.

Finally, the micro-simulation exercise explored the distributional impacts of combining the HGSF programme and CASU project. For **CASU's productive support and the HGSF's local purchases programme**, the results showed that prior to the intervention, programme participants were generally less poor than those not participating in such programmes. In terms of overall income distribution, CASU and HGSF have a slightly equalizing effect. Micro-simulation of the **school meals component of HGSF** is based on the 2010 and 2015 Monitoring Surveys of Living Conditions. The simulation results showed that if school feeding were to be scaled up to reach universal coverage, it would increase school attendance rates by 4.7 percentage points, on average, as compared with a scenario with no school feeding. Compared with the current situation, universal school feeding would increase attendance by 1.8 percentage points.





## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The results of the impact evaluations endorse the programmes based on cash transfers as effective tools to reduce food insecurity and poverty.
- However, these programmes are more successful insofar as they incorporate dimensions of productive promotion that more structurally support the exit from poverty in rural areas. Particularly, the evaluation exercises evidence the contribution of these synergies to increasing the resilience of households to external shocks. An important argument to promote strategies of this nature, facing the need for promoting reactivation processes in the rural sector.
- It is advised to consider factors of advice and accompaniment when conceiving coordination schemes, which appear as elements of great importance in the transformation of greater monetary resources into better diets or better technologies.
- It is recommended these schemes to include activities aimed at strengthening community or collective elements, as well as strengthening soft skills, as this seems to provide greater robustness to the positive impacts derived from social protection programmes. In addition, the promotion of such spaces is especially relevant to generate improvements in perceptions of well-being and in the empowerment of beneficiaries that can contribute to a more effective overcoming poverty traps.
- It is also recommend the design of comprehensive programmes that address these different dimensions simultaneously, with the aim of fostering complementarities, and offering durable pathways out of poverty.

## TECHNICAL SHEET

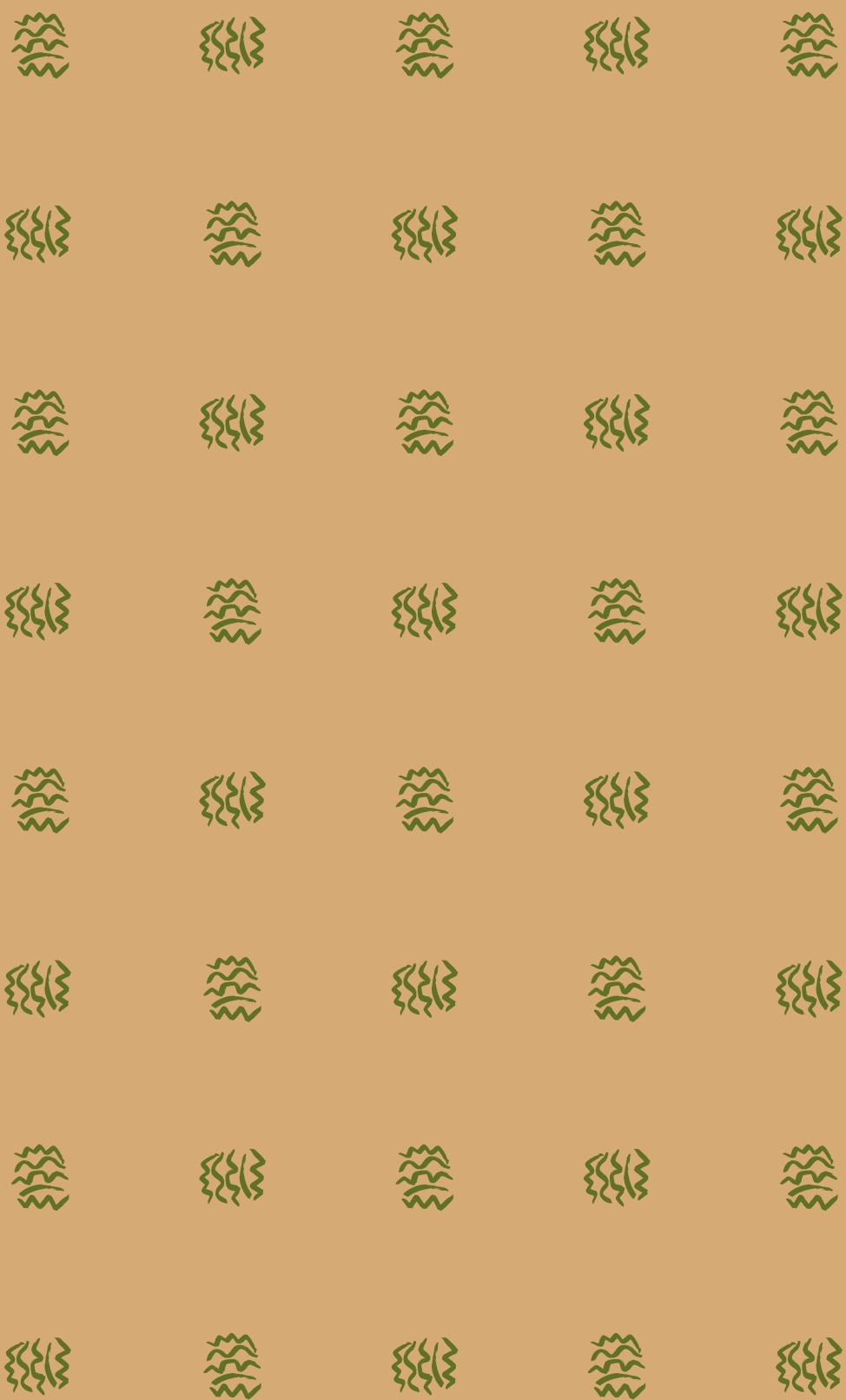
### The Project

Over the past few years, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have been analysing the potential synergistic effects of interventions on rural households that involve social protection programmes and productive rural development projects. IFAD and the Universidad de Los Andes have implemented this project through the “Conditional Cash Transfers and Rural Development in Latin America” grant ([www.sinergiasrurales.info/](http://www.sinergiasrurales.info/)); and FAO through the project entitled “From Protection to Production: The role of Social Cash Transfers in the Promotion of Economic Development” (PtoP) ([www.fao.org/economic/ptop](http://www.fao.org/economic/ptop)). Some evidence of such synergies and complementarities has been identified, but the evidence has also raised new questions. These inquiries are related to the types of synergies and how to take advantage of them, the correct sequencing of programme rollout, the institutional reforms that need to take place and the political economy behind these options, and thus improve the results of the programmes.

To answer some of these questions, the project entitled “Improving the Coordination between Social Protection and Rural Development Interventions in Developing Countries: Lessons from Latin America and Africa” - which is being developed by the Universidad de Los Andes (UNIANDES), through its Centre for Economic Development Studies (CEDE), and financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) - seeks to gather evidence of the benefits of such coordinated interventions.

The goal of the project is to gather evidence for policymakers and donors of the benefits of the coordinated interventions that could provide inputs regarding the appropriate institutional and operational design, and enable them to use these inputs as a basis for improving anti-poverty interventions targeted at rural households, thus helping small farmers to take a proactive part in rural transformation.

The main objective of the project is to influence government institutions related to rural development and social protection (anti-poverty) policies, so that they can take advantage of the synergies identified between social protection and productive initiatives. The project was implemented in seven countries, three in Latin America and four in Africa.



## IMPACT EVALUATION



## RURAL SYNERGIES

*Building bridges between social and  
productive inclusion policies*



[sinergiasrurales.info](http://sinergiasrurales.info)

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