

The Enduring Impacts of a Big Push During Multiple Crises: Experimental Evidence From Afghanistan

This repository contains the code to reproduce all the results presented in the paper “The Enduring Impacts of a Big Push During Multiple Crises: Experimental Evidence From Afghanistan”

Introduction

The Big Push or Targeting the Ultra Poor (TUP) programs have emerged as a potential alternative to lift households out of extreme poverty. These programs provide a comprehensive package to extreme poor households, including productive assets, training, and consumption transfers to overcome multiple constraints simultaneously and effectively lift ultra-poor households onto a path towards sustainable livelihoods. However, although growing and promising, evidence on the efficacy and effectiveness of TUP programs to reduce extreme poverty at scale is still nascent. In addition, there is no evidence whether these programs can work in fragile and conflict situations (FCS). The TUP program in Afghanistan aims to provide the missing evidence above by evaluating the long term effects of a TUP program in a conflict and fragile context.

This repository contains the reproducibility package for the the longer-term (5 years after the asset transfer) impact evaluation paper where we examine the impact of the interventions on primary indicators of livelihood including consumption, food security, assets, finance, market work participation, income and revenues, mental health, women’s empowerment, and education.

Repository Structure

The folders are organized by round of data collection (Baseline, Follow up 1, and Phone Survey), and papers (IE phone paper). Note that we use “midline” interchangeably with “follow up 1” and “endline” with “phone survey” (since the endline was conducted via phone surveys). Data collection round folders (Baseline, Follow up 1, Phone Survey) contain all the technical documents relating to the data collection (questionnaire, surveyor’s manual, etc.) as well as all the construction code leading to the final dataset used for analysis. Paper folder (IE phone paper) contains all the code used to generate the analysis of the endline IE paper. Endline IE paper (aka IE phone paper) makes use of data from both previous rounds of data collection, so they are included as well.

The program files in this repository are categorized as follows: * Baseline - Program files of baseline survey data. * Follow_up_1 - Program files of follow-up survey data. * IE_Phone_paper - Program files of the Impact Evaluation paper after endline, entitled “The Enduring Impacts of a Big Push During Multiple Crises: Experimental Evidence From Afghanistan” * MasterData - Programs files loaded across multiple studies (ex. ado files) * Phone_Survey - Program files of phone survey (aka endline) survey data. * Profile_and_merging - Datasets related to the lottery, the PRA and merging baseline with follow up datasets.

Data

The data related to the project and needed to run the code is in the process of being anonymized and desensitized, and consequently has not yet been made public. Only the code is contained in this reproducibility package. The data will be released at a later time on the World Bank Micro Data Catalogue (<https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/home>). Feel free to reach out directly to one of the authors if you have any question regarding the data.

How to Use

The first step is to change the global macro paths for the new user. This should be done in the **part 1 of the “AFG-TUP_MasterDofile.do” in the DataWork folder as well as in the following R script “AFG-TUP_Phone_paperScript_Istock.R”**. Follow the instructions in the dofile. As detailed in the Wiki (<https://github.com/worldbank/AFG-TUP/wiki>), our workflow was organized around github and Dropbox. Once you download the package, all the needed do files will be in your computer. The global “Github” should then be the path to your local package folder, and the globals “Dropbox” and “TUP_DB” should be the path to the folder where you downloaded the datasets.

To update all the paths, just run the part 1 and 2 of the dofile. If you run the whole dofile, it will run the entire analysis as mentioned below.

Generate all the analysis of the paper “The Enduring Impacts of a Big Push During Multiple Crises: Experimental Evidence From Afghanistan” from clean data.

Run the do file Project_MasterDofile.do in the DataWork folder with the new global macro paths. It will run all the do files to generate all the datasets and final outputs presented in the enndline IE paper, starting from the cleaned data (to be submitted to the microdata catalogue in the future).

Note on running a R Script from stata to generate Figure A1

All the code is in Stata and should run directly from the Project_MasterDoFile do file. Only Figure A1 is an output of a R script. This R script should run automatically from stata using the rsource command. The R script is called in line 323 in the do file “IE_Phone_paper_MasterDofile.do” in the folder IE_Phone_paper.

For the R script to run automatically, users have to update the path in the global Rterm path in Project_MasterDofile (which is the path to the exec R file) and update the global macro paths in the alluvial_Istock.R R script (see section “How to use”). If the R script does not run automatically from Stata and/or does not generate Figure A1, we recommend to run directly the script from R after running all the code in Stata.

Outputs not reproducible through the code:

- Figure I, II and III are providing information on the context in Afghanistan at the time and not related to the study. The code to reproduce them is then not included in the repository.
- The first two tables (“Main Outcomes Construction Description” and Table A1 “Mapping of Endline Outcomes to Data Collection Rounds”) in the Online Appendix are describing the construction of outcomes and the timeline of endline data collection. As these are text only, they are not reproduced in the repository.

Run the code / analysis from specific folders

For details on the outputs, datasets, do files or different data collection rounds, you can check directly the read me or master do file in the relevant folder. Each folder has a specific dofile called foldername_MasterDofile.do which will run all the dofiles in that folder. Make sure that the paths have been updated as explained in the first step before running a folder’s MasterDofile.

Please find the Wiki (<https://github.com/worldbank/AFG-TUP/wiki>) of this repository for detailed description of how the workflow was organized, technical notes on the cleaning and construction process including the treatment of outliers and abbreviations used throughout all the documents.

List of Outputs generated by the code

Main Section of the Paper

Figures

Figure 1 “Implementation, Study and Events Timeline”, 2 “Battle-related Casualties and All Casualties in Afghanistan, Monthly from January 2017 to June 2021” and 3 “All Casualties per 100,000 People in Afghanistan and Balkh, Annual from 2017 to 2021” do not show analysis results and as such are not reproduced by the code in this repository. - Figure 4 “Midline and Endline Comparison of Select Indicators Ultra-Poor Control and Non-Ultra Poor Households” - Figure 5 “Value and Number of Livestock Owned at Transfer, Midline and Endline”

Tables

- Table 1 “Ultra-Poor Households’ Socioeconomic Characteristics at Baseline”
- Table 2 “Impacts on Consumption, Food Security and Nutritional Diversity”
- Table 3 “Impacts on Household Finances”
- Table 4 “Impacts on Household Durable and Productive Assets”
- Table 5 “Impacts on Labor Supply and Time Use, Primary Woman and Man, Past Month”
- Table 6 “Impacts on Total Household Income and Revenues Proxy (USD), Month”
- Table 7 “Impacts on Psychological Well-Being and Education”
- Table 8 “Impacts on Women’s Empowerment, by Index Component”
- Table 9 “Shocks and Coping Mechanisms”
- Table 10 “Gaps Between Non-Ultra Poor and Ultra-Poor Households Across Select Indicators at Endline”

Online Appendix

Figures

- Figure A1 “Estimated Inflation Between Midline and Endline (3-year period): Food, Non-Food Items, and Overall 2018-Q3 to 2021-Q2”
- Figure A2 “Livestock Ownership Transition, Number of Livestock in Cow Equivalents”
- Figure A3 “UP and Non-UP Comparison at Endline Total Household Income and Revenues Proxy (USD)”

Tables

- Table A1 “Mapping of Endline Outcomes to Data Collection Rounds” do not show analysis results and as such are not reproduced by the code in this repository
- Table A2 “Explanatory Power of Total Consumption Proxy”
- Table A3 “Cost-Benefit Analysis”
- Table A4-A “Baseline Balance Test: HHs Surveyed in Any Round” and A4-B “Baseline Balance Test: HHs Surveyed in All Rounds”
- Table A5 “Endline Attrition and Response Rate”
- Table A6 “Robustness Check: Impacts on Main Outcomes with Baseline Controls”
- Table A7 “Robustness Check: Impacts on Main Outcomes for a Subsample of HHs Surveyed in All Rounds”
- Table A8 “Impacts on Women’s Empowerment Without Market Work Participation, by Index Component”
- Table A9 “Impacts on Psychological Well-Being and Women’s Empowerment Indices”
- Table A10 “Impacts on Diversification of Income Sources”
- Table A11 “Comparison Between Midline and Endline Samples and Indicators for Midline Impacts”
- Table A12 “Two-Year Follow-Up Impacts on Consumption, Food Security and Nutritional Diversity”
- Table A13 “Two-Year Follow-Up Impacts on Proxy Household Income and Revenues (Nominal USD), Past 4 Weeks”

- Table A14 “Two-Year Follow-Up Impacts on Household Finances (Nominal USD)”
- Table A15 “Two-Year Follow-Up Impacts on Household Durable and Productive Assets”
- Table A16 “Two-Year Follow-Up Impacts on Labor Supply and Time Use, Primary Woman and Man, Past 4 Weeks”
- Table A17 “Two-Year Follow-Up Impacts on Psychological Well-Being and Education”
- Table A18 “Two-Year Follow-Up Impacts on Women’s Empowerment, by Index Component”

Main Contact

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