

A photograph of a man in a purple shirt with white stripes on the sleeves, working on a wooden bench in a workshop. He is using a tool to shape a piece of wood. In the background, another man in a white shirt is standing near a brick wall. The workshop is outdoors, with a brick wall and trees visible. The text "Evaluating the Youth Opportunity Program in Northern Uganda" is overlaid in large blue letters.

Evaluating the Youth Opportunity Program in Northern Uganda

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Northern Uganda

- 20 years of conflict starting in early 1980s
- Nearly all areas experienced some form of insecurity:
 - armed insurgency, abductions, cattle rustling, etc
 - 2 million people internally displaced
- Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP)
 - consolidate state authority
 - rebuild communities
 - promote peace and reconciliation
 - revitalize the economy
 - Package of several programs, among which is the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund, or NUSAF

Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF)



- CDD
 - Empower communities to identify, prioritize, and plan for their needs within their own value systems.
 - \$100M IDA credit
- Youth Opportunities Program (YOP)
 - \$6M component
 - \$10,000 grants to groups of 15-30 youth (<32)
 - Purchase vocational training and equipment

YOP Objectives

- Provide youth with specific vocational skills and tool kits to enable them to earn incomes and improve their livelihood
- Contribute towards community reconciliation and conflict management
- Build capacity of NGOs, CBOs, and Vocational Training Institutes (VTIs) to respond to the needs of youth.

Key Questions

➤ Overarching questions:

- What is the effect of YOP on youth's livelihoods?
 - Labor market outcomes
 - Household assets and consumption levels
 - Leadership abilities and empowerment
 - Community integration
 - Psychosocial well-being
 - Conflict and violence
 - Risky behavior

➤ Program design question:

- What type of management support is more effective in generating successful productive enterprises?

➤ Methodological contribution:

- How to measure social interaction and profits more accurately in this setting?

Evaluation Design

- Random assignment of treatment based on excess demand
 - Hundreds of youth groups applied
 - funding available for 260
 - Desk appraisal for selection of 520 eligible applications
 - Lottery for selection of funded proposals
 - 260 winning groups get funding
 - Remaining are in control group

Cross-Cutting Design

- Under previous NUSAF operations, anecdotal evidence of poor planning, budget management and little follow-up supervision
 - Need cheap complementary program with promise to boost success of youth groups.
- Test the introduction of management, planning, and extension services
 - Management and extension advisor (MEA)
 - \$100 for 6 months of follow-up services
 - Model 1: Groups select MEA; contracting and oversight done by district.
 - Model 2: Groups select MEA; contracting and oversight done by group.

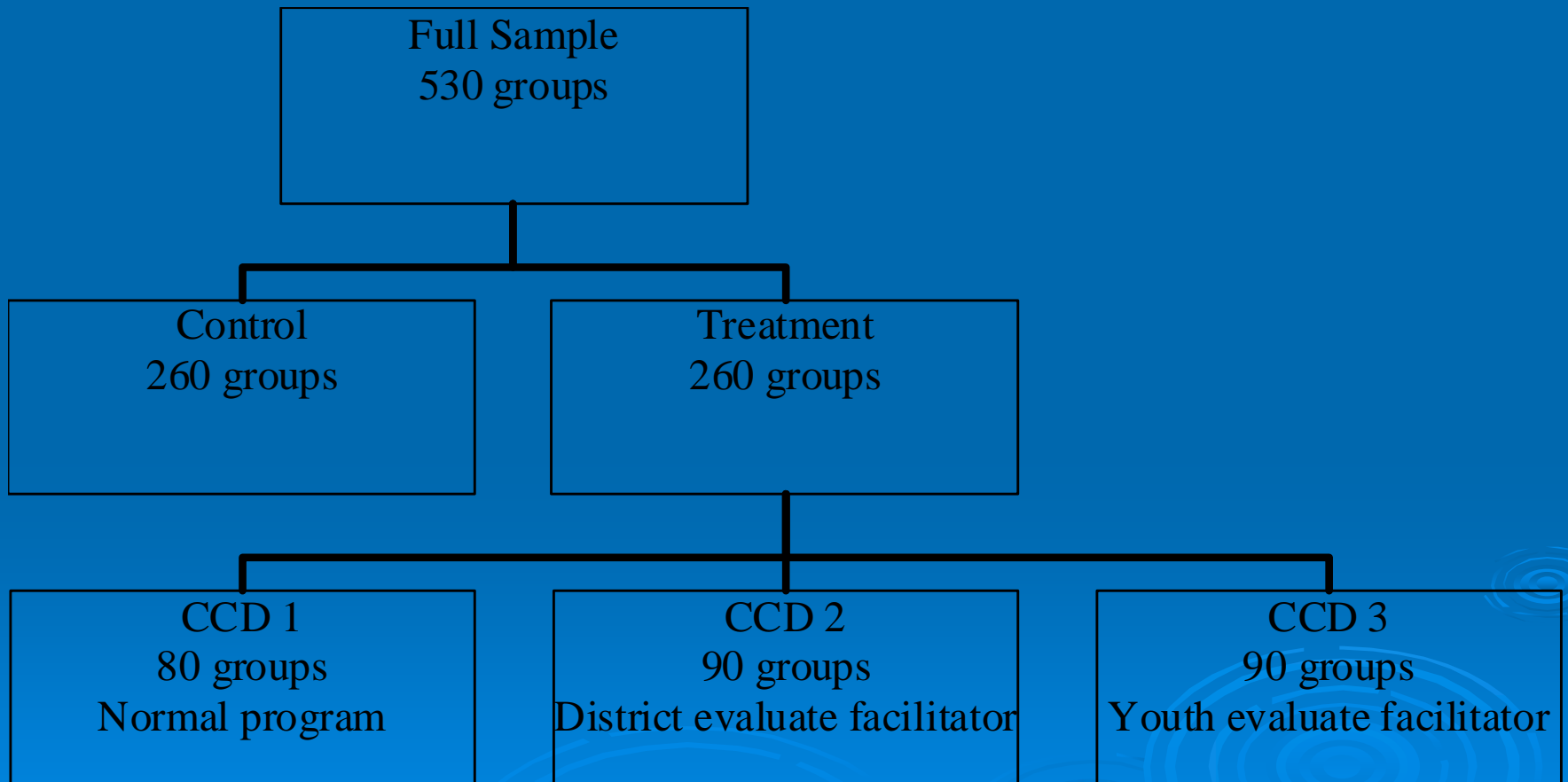
Management and extension advisor



Provides assistance with:

- Reviewing and adjusting the group's budget
- bookkeeping and accounting
- Business advice and link the group with sector specialists;
- procurement of tools and assets
- Operations and maintenance of tools and assets
- Monthly and quarterly reports to the district
- Conflict resolution and monitoring of group dynamics
- Profit sharing within the group;
- Monitor and supervise group performance, including on spot visits and follow up support where advice is not followed.

Evaluation Design



Baseline Survey



Baseline Survey – Phase I

- February-March 2008
- 520 groups
 - 5 youth per group selected at random
 - 2600 youth in sample
- Individual level information on participants and their households (demographics, education, employment, assets, consumption, psychosocial well-being, health, conflict and violence, risky behavior, etc.);
- Group characteristics (size, composition, etc.);
- Facilitator characteristics (age, education, experience, hours spent with group, reputation, etc.);
- Market/regional characteristics (size of local market, access to roads, etc.);
- Recontact information

Baseline Results

- Balance between Treatment and Control groups on 94% of 312 variables tested
- NUSAF applicants are different from representative sample of youth in Northern Uganda (NUS, DHS, UNHS):
 - Own more assets and animals
 - Higher education
 - More male respondents

Baseline Phase II

- November 2008 – April 2009.
 - Treatment groups are fully formed
 - Project funds recently disbursed
 - Training activities initiated Nov 08
- Learning how to collect measures of:
 - group dynamics
 - Micro-enterprise (profits)

Group Dynamics

- Do measures of a group's dynamics explain a group's success?
 - Dynamics are difficult to measure, especially with a questionnaire.
 - Run simulations with the group members where individual's decisions directly affect other members, the resulting decisions show the quality of group member's interactions.

Group Dynamics, cont.

➤ Some games being run:

- Contribution game to measures the ability of a community to cooperate with each other in the provision of public goods;
- Ultimatum game to measure the strength of fairness as a social norm;
- Dictator simulation to measure the altruism of group members.
- Puzzle game.

➤ These games will help us to understand:

- Whether the level of cohesion and cooperation within the groups is an important determinant of the success of the individuals within the group;
- Whether the level of preference of equality, from both individuals in the group and the group leaders, is an important determinant of the success of the individuals within the group.

Micro-enterprise survey

- Experience from first baseline shows difficulties in collecting micro-enterprise profits
 - No records
 - Home consumption
 - Recall
 - Variety of types of activities
- Learn how to cost-effectively survey micro-enterprises in this challenging environment
 - Pilot for follow-up survey
- Sample of micro-enterprises in the region
 - YOP treatment and control groups
 - Previously funded YOP groups
 - Sample of community businesses
- Detailed profit and productivity questionnaire
- Sub-sample of businesses will be selected to undergo observation by a research assistant every other day for 30 minutes for 1 month to give most accurate measure of profits.

Next Steps

- Tracking survey tentatively scheduled for July-August 2009.
 - Reduce selective attrition
 - Short term results on select indicators
- Follow-up Survey scheduled for February-April 2010: 18 months of exposure to treatment
- Final impact results by September 2010



THANK YOU