



Development Innovation Ventures
Global Development Lab
United States Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

To Whom It May Concern,

We understand that the non-profit organization GiveDirectly is planning to implement and study through a randomized controlled trial the use of long-term unconditional cash transfers to entire communities in East Africa as a means of addressing extreme poverty. Some have referred to this type of unified, broadly targeted cash transfer program as a form of "universal basic income." We are very interested in seeing the results of this study.

The mission of USAID is to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. Development Innovation Ventures is an office within USAID that focuses on exploring better ways to solve big problems in the development space and then scaling those that work.

In this context, we're excited about seeing the results of this study and believe the planned research is relevant to a number of social protection and development questions. Those include but are not limited to whether long-term cash transfers to the poor show similar impacts across a range of outcomes to short-term cash transfers; how stream payments over time compare in impact to one-timer or shorter-term cash transfers (different cash modalities); and whether such a unified, broadly targeted cash program could be a superior way to harmonize disparate and overlapping cash and in-kind social protection programs.

Sincerely,

Anne Healy
Division Chief
Development Innovation Ventures