

Putting Women's Work and Childcare in Context

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Childcare Responsibilities and Women's Labor Supply
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Motivation



- Women are more likely than men to engage in childcare, limiting employment opportunities
- Children need a nurturing environment to thrive
- Can childcare provision address both issues:
 1. Increase female economic activity and agency
 2. Stimulate early childhood development

Innovative interventions



Two models developed with careful attention to context:

1. Burkina Faso Mobile Creches (with Rebekka Grun, Florence Kantiono, Gilberte Kedote, Estelle Koussoubé)
2. DRC Western Growth Poles Project (Aletheia Donald, Francisco Campos, Julia Vaillant, Maria Emilia Cucagna)



1. Burkina Faso Mobile Creches

- **Urban public works project**
 - 85% of applicants female
 - Lower take-up among mothers
 - Children brought to work sites
 - Informal childcare arrangements
 - Six month minimum wage employment
- **Challenges**
 - Unsafe for children
 - Distraction for mothers



1. Burkina Faso Mobile Creches

- **Key features of mobile creches**
 - Full coverage tents (safe spaces)
 - Nutritious meals
 - Stimulating curriculum using trained providers (PW brigadiers)
 - Low cost toys and learning materials
 - Parental education on childcare and nutrition
 - Support visits from education and health specialists
 - Capacity for 50 children aged 0 to 6



1. Burkina Faso Mobile Creches

- **Design phase**
 - Ministry of Women, National Solidarity, Family and Humanitarian Action (education for 0 to 2 year olds)
 - Ministry of National Education, Literacy and Promotion of National Languages (education for 3 to 6 year olds)
 - Qualitative research with public works participants
 - Consultation with regional ECD experts
 - Pilot in one commune



1. Burkina Faso Mobile Creches

- **Impact evaluation**
 - 18 public works sites with creches
 - 18 control sites
 - 2,120 female public works brigadiers with a child <6 years
 - Household surveys with information on female brigadiers, cohabitating partners, children <6 years.

1. Burkina Faso Mobile Creches

- **Scalability and sustainability**

- Salaries for 200 BAMs (10 per creche): 37,000 CFA per BAM => 7,400,000 CFA per month (**USD 12,500**; USD 62.50 each)
- 4 (weekly) supervision visits by education specialists (fuel and communication) => 300,000 CFA per month (**USD 510**)
- 2 (fortnightly) supervision visits by health workers => 300,000 CFA per month (**USD 255**)
- Daily snack for children (150 CFA/day with 50% paid by parents): 2000 CFA per child per month => 2,000,000 CFA per month (**USD 3,393**)
- Total: **USD 16,658** per month for 20 creches (**USD 833** each)

2. DRC Western Growth Poles Project



- 80% of women and 60% of men engage in farming
- Baseline survey of 2,931 farming households
- Female plot managers:
 - spend 1 hr 52 mins more on domestic work per day
 - have 26% lower agricultural productivity
- >60% of female respondents say they would be likely to use a childcare center if available
- Qualitative research to design intervention and build community support

Key considerations



- Age range
 - Logistical challenges to include children <2 years
- Financing
 - Actual cost of operation is often prohibitive
 - Subsidies are not sustainable
- Formality

Key considerations

FORMAL

Infrastructure – such as a school or classroom – is financed by the project

Food is provided

Children are provided with toys and activities designed to aid their cognitive stimulation

Parents can usually not afford to pay the actual cost

Centers are thus heavily subsidized

Once funds run out, they can no longer be maintained

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INFORMAL

Informal arrangements between community members

Includes rotating scheme, where groups of women band together and take turn as “caretaker”

Distrust towards other members of the groups (ex fear of witchcraft) can make this arrangement difficult to implement

Concerns about early childhood development outcomes due to an inexperienced, rotating care provider

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HYBRID

Only infrastructure already existing in the village is used

Low-cost play-based curricula found highly effective in other settings is used to promote child development

Center is run by a community member, but they are provided with in-depth professional training and are remunerated by the project for their work

2. DRC Western Growth Poles Project

- Impact evaluation
 - Individual-level lottery if excess demand
 - Community-level randomization if undersubscribed

Lessons



- Need to adapt childcare model to context
- Multiple examples of similar interventions with innovative designs but undocumented impacts
- Limited evidence from evaluations focused on both outcomes – women's work and child development

Thank you

- Africa Gender Innovation Lab
 - <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/africa-gender-innovation-lab>
- Burkina Faso Mobile Creches
 - <https://cfi.co/magazine/cfi-co-winter-2018-2019-world-bank-on-social-protection-in-africa/>
- Western Growth Poles Project
 - <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/30118>
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