

## ○ Project Overview

GiveDirectly will make unconditional cash transfers to ~3,600 households in Iganga District, Uganda, as part of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to answer the following questions:

1. What is the impact on coffee farming community productivity and welfare of providing unconditional cash transfers (UCTs)?
2. How does the impact of UCTs on coffee farmers differ from the impact on non-coffee farmers?

In addition to seeking to answer those questions, the survey instrument will also gather additional qualitative information on beneficiary reactions to the transfers. While this additional information is not intended to scientifically address these issues, it is intended to provide useful information about designing potential future tests to further optimize any benefits found in providing cash transfers to these communities. Those include:

1. How the timing and structure of payments worked for beneficiaries in order to identify whether optimizations could be made to the transfer structure. This would provide a roadmap for potentially testing alternative transfer structures and timing.
2. Whether there were particular behaviors associated with the most and least productive beneficiaries. This would allow us to consider behavioral nudges that might push more beneficiaries into the more productive category.

## ○ Transfer and Study Design

**Transfer Design:** Our goal in structuring transfers is to balance a desire to get cash into the hands of beneficiaries as fast as possible, while taking into account the fluctuations of the coffee cycle. Making transfers swiftly is important as the typical return on investment with UCTs in the hands of recipients is roughly 30%, far higher than we could achieve holding the money ourselves. As currently designed, initial transfers would be in the hands of beneficiaries before the 2016 end-of-year harvest and all transfers would be in the hands of beneficiaries before the end of the Spring 2017 harvest.

**Study:** For the study, we plan to perform all data collection in house in order to conserve on costs. We will hire an independent analyst solely to (a) file a pre-analysis plan; (b) design the survey instrument; and (c) analyze the data and draft a final report. For the survey, we will interview ~2,000 treated households and ~2,000 untreated households. We plan to perform baseline surveys at the tail end of the Spring 2016 harvest and endline surveys at the same time one year later.

**Power Calculation Confirmation:** Prior to finalizing the precise number of households we plan to survey and treat, we will send field officers to the target villages in order to collect up-to-date sample data on the state of coffee farming and poverty. This is necessary to validate our power calculations and confirm that conditions in the villages where we plan to run the project have not changed materially from when the last data was gathered by the government, upon which we based our original design calculations. This process will also assist our continued learning on the state of coffee farming in the project region to the extent that should further inform our project in any way.



