



Photo Valerie Flax/RTI International

Context

- Prevalence of stunting among young children in Rwanda remains high – it is linked to inadequate dietary intake, among other factors.
- Less than 1/3 of children 12-23 months are fed at least 4 food groups per day, the minimum dietary diversity.
- Consumption of animal source foods (ASFs) is low.
- The Government of Rwanda & its partners are implementing a livestock asset transfer program since 2006 to improve nutritional status of children.
- Girinka program provides an exotic or cross-bred cow to poor households that do not own cattle. Evidence on the nutrition outcomes of the program is lacking.

Our innovative approach

- Application of a quasi-experimental evaluation method - propensity score matching techniques to assess the impact of Girinka program on food security, ASF consumption and child nutrition outcomes.



NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

Rwanda government's livestock asset transfer program "Girinka" is associated with improved child nutrition

- Participation in the Girinka program associated with reduced child undernutrition: mean anthropometric z-score higher in Girinka versus control households (HAZ - 1.7 vs. -2.0 SD).
- Frequency of child milk consumption was higher in Girinka compared to control households: 43% vs. 22% consumed milk more than 2 times/week.
- Girinka program was associated with better food security: HFIAS 12.3 vs 13.7 for control households.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock

LLAFS

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Outcomes

- Results shared with MINAGRI, the Nutrition Working Group and other key stakeholders.
- Impact of Girinka program further being augmented with a social behavior change communication (SBCC) intervention to improve knowledge and practices on appropriate infant and child feeding behavior and ASFs consumption.

Future steps

- Integration of the SBCC materials on ASFs at the national level through the NECDP.
- Refresher training of community health workers on the SBCC materials.

Partners

- RTI International
- University of Rwanda
- MINAGRI
- Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC)
- National Early Childhood Development Program

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