



**International  
Growth Centre**



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INNOVATIONS FOR  
POVERTY ACTION

## An Overview of Ongoing Energy and Water Projects in Zambia

IGC & IPA

# The projects

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## Energy

- ▶ Stopping Power: Electricity Shortages and Economic Activity

## Water

- ▶ Water, Health, and Wealth: Water Outages in Lusaka, Zambia
- ▶ Improving Sanitation in Urban Areas in Zambia
- ▶ Household Characteristics and the Elasticity of Demand for Water



# Stopping Power: Electricity Shortages and Economic Activity

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- ▶ Research question: What is the impact of the sudden onset and continued electricity rationing in Lusaka on economic activity?
- ▶ Researchers: Abe Holland (Harvard)
- ▶ Methods: Regression based analysis
- ▶ Study partners: ZESCO, Zoono, and the ZRA
- ▶ Status: At a relatively early stage, initial dataset construction and analysis are ongoing



# Water, Health, and Wealth: Water Outages in Lusaka, Zambia

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- ▶ Research question: What is the impact of municipal water outages on local economic activity, health outcomes and school test scores?
- ▶ Researchers: Nava Ashraf (LSE), Ed Glaeser (Harvard), Bryce Steinberg (Brown), Abe Holland (Harvard)
- ▶ Methods: Regression based analysis
- ▶ Study partners: LWSC, Zoono, MCDMH, and DOE
- ▶ Status: Expect initial report to partners by December 2016



# Improving Sanitation in Urban Areas in Zambia

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- ▶ **Research questions:**
  - ▶ How much do households value available sanitation upgrades?
  - ▶ Do households give up on sanitation because of credit constraints?
  - ▶ Could tenants and landlords coordinate about these decisions?
- ▶ **Researchers:** Mũthoni Ngatia (Tufts), William Parienté (Louvain), Roland Rathelot (Warwick)
- ▶ **Methods:** Field experiment to vary rebates, credit and tenant-landlord interaction to encourage take-up of sanitation upgrades
- ▶ **Study partners:** MCA-Z, BFC, LWSC
- ▶ **Status:** Design stage (funding secured)



# Household Characteristics and the Elasticity of Demand for Water

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- ▶ Research questions:
  - ▶ How price sensitive is water usage by households in Livingstone? Does this vary with household characteristics?
  - ▶ How does greater awareness of prices affects water consumption?
  - ▶ How do attitudes toward the water provider affect use?
- ▶ Researchers: Kelsey Jack (Tufts), Seema Jayachandran (Northwestern), Sarojini Rao (Chicago)
- ▶ Methods: Field experiment to vary price incentive for reductions in water use, information about tariffs and the water provider; survey with intrahousehold behavioral measures
- ▶ Study partners: SWSC
- ▶ Status: Field work complete, analysis ongoing



# For more information

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To learn more about any of these projects, visit

[www.theigc.org/country/zambia](http://www.theigc.org/country/zambia)

<http://www.poverty-action.org/country/zambia>

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