

# Does Foreign Aid Improve Educational Outcomes? Evidence from Uganda

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2025-10-21

## 1 Introduction

In this paper, we study the impact of foreign aid on the educational outcomes of working-age adults in Uganda. The relationship between the amount of aid received and the economic growth of developing countries remains an open, important question among researchers and policymakers. Using spatial data from William & Mary’s GeoQuery platform, we trace the geographic boundaries of various projects and their reach during 2014 to 2017. This allows us to pursue identification through a Barthik instrument constructed with industry and employment shares by district. To formulate the second stage of the regression, we utilize data on educational attainment available at the smallest level of disaggregation for interpretation against the instrumental variable.

## 2 Data

The project, locations, and transactions provided in the foreign aid dataset was extracted using the GeoQuery platform, which was initially funded by USAID and continues to be managed by William & Mary as an initiative under their development research lab called AidData. The combined dataset contains all geocoded projects from the Government of Uganda’s Aid Information Management System (AIMS) (also known as Uganda’s Aid Management Platform or UAMP). It follows 565 geocoded projects across 2,426 locations from as early as the late 1970s through the mid-2010s. In total, the database accounts for more than \$7.5 billion in disbursements. The scope of the projects span a wide range of targeted sectors such as health, energy, and education with additional detailed information on other relevant variables including donors, start date, end date, and total commitments.

## 3 Methodology

## 4 Results

Table 1: Summary Statistics by Year

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Education Outcomes</b>				
Primary gross enrollment rate	125.09 (43.34)	111.10 (26.91)	128.81 (66.62)	115.44 (30.33)
Secondary gross enrollment rate	29.62 (15.89)	23.61 (13.49)	28.64 (19.20)	24.29 (12.41)
N	123	123	123	123
<b>International Aid</b>				
Total transaction amount	9,731,334 (9,469,774)	4,399,664 (7,324,813)	1,385,561 (1,063,159)	4,343,055 (5,333,710)
Even-split disbursement	1,443,922 (4,192,766)	12,662,719 (22,004,525)	433,777 (342,969)	1,951,086 (1,101,232)
Total disbursement	33,980,379 (38,409,030)	37,327,835 (66,214,493)	2,535,306 (2,084,772)	16,862,828 (9,474,609)
N	455	120	27	113

Notes: Values are means with standard deviations in parentheses. Aid data are from Uganda's Aid Management Platform that tracks geocoded projects' disbursements. Even-split disbursement represent evenly allocated total disbursement amounts between project start and end years. Education data are from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

## 5 Discussion

## 6 Conclusion

## 7 References