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## 1 Executive Summary

To support parents to receive timely and quality guidance even when direct contact with service providers is not possible and overcome barriers in access to localized digital solutions with verified content, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) developed a mobile parenting app, Bebbo. The mobile application also supports the most vulnerable parents/caregivers with lower education level, in terms of the navigation modalities, off-line operability and selection of the core content. The two main objectives of Bebbo, in line with the UNICEF ECARO Early Childhood Development Theory of Change, are: (1) Improving availability of information for parents on child development, and (2) Supporting parents for responsive caregiving and early intervention. Accordingly, Bebbo app provides users information and interactive tools to help nurture and aid their child's health and development. The launch of Bebbo in 11 countries in the ECA region is a direct response to the identified objective to engage parents and caregivers in nurturing care, positive parenting, stimulating, and learning.

## The Context

Parents everywhere are in need of information on various aspects of child development from reliable and validated sources as well as guidance on how to support the health and development of their children. However, services providing this sort of information and support are often non-existent or inaccessible for a lot of parents in many places. Often, service providers, even when accessible, might lack necessary knowledge and skills to respond to the questions and concerns parents might have.

Mobile apps are one of the most convenient and easy ways to access information about child development and parenting. However, parenting apps are mainly in English and provide a limited thematic content without a possibility for parents to familiarize with, track, and support all aspects of their child's health and development. In addition, these apps are, naturally, not adapted to contexts of individual countries. Many apps are not free of charge, which presents a significant barrier, particularly for the most vulnerable families. At the same time, the majority of the existing apps operate only in online mode requiring good internet connectivity that is lacking in remote and rural areas.

## The App

[UNICEF TEAM TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE APP IF DESIRED]

## Impact Evaluation

We perform a study across two countries, Serbia and Bulgaria, using a randomized encouragement design to compare the impact of encouraging caregivers of young children to use the Bebbio app as compared to a treatment-as-usual (TAU) condition of encouraging them to use a static informational website. By comparing Bebbio to the existing TAU, we are asking the question: “does this new treatment offer something above and beyond the already existing treatments which parents might presumably already be asked to do?”

We measure effects on eight outcomes across three domains: knowledge, attitudes, and practices. A difference-in-difference design is used, with questions asked at both the baseline (before treatment) and the endline (at least 4 weeks after treatment) surveys. Finally, an additional follow-up survey was sent (at least 4 weeks after the endline), to measure impacts of longer-term usage.

## Results

We do not find evidence that asking this population to use Bebbio has any impact beyond that of asking them to visit a parenting website. Given the study design, the following facts may have contributed to the lack of evidence of impact:

1. The population was already very “good” in regards to the outcomes of interest. We measured the improvement of parents over time, under treatment, but many could not improve from their baseline scores, which were perfect. This implies that either (i) the outcome questions were not the right questions or (ii) the problem being solved only exists in a subset of the population and a solution that targets the general population may not be the most efficient.
2. Participants improved from the first questionnaire to the second questionnaire, regardless of treatment arm and regardless of compliance. This seems to imply that the very act of asking the questions improves the way that parents answer them. This implies that reminding parents about the questions, via an informational campaign, may be more important than providing resources to find the answers, which they seem to already have.
3. Very few people complied with treatment and used Bebbio. Of those who were asked to use the app, 28% used the app, 12% used the app more than one day, and only 3% used the app more than three days. Significant pre-exposure to the app in both countries (55% knew about the app and 23% reported having used it before) could have led to the low initial compliance. This implies that the app may only be an effective intervention for a small subset of the population who finds it engaging. [ADD SENTENCE ABOUT APP USAGE ANALYSIS].

We were reasonably powered (75%) to find a small effect size on the population or a medium effect size on the treated with a 28% takeup and no effect on those who don’t take up the treatment. Note, this implies that we were not able to detect a smaller effect size or a medium effect size on a smaller takeup group (i.e. the small group of treated users who used the app for multiple days).

## 2 Evaluation Questions

### What question does this evaluation answer?

The design of the study is set up to answer the following question in the positive:

Is asking parents to use Bebbio an effective policy to improve the parenting knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the general population of caregivers of young children in Bulgaria and Serbia?

Note that the study cannot fully answer the question in the negative, it cannot prove that this intervention is ineffective, it can only fail to measure its effectiveness.

We are only testing the effectiveness of “asking” or “inviting” parents to use the app. Alternatively, one might be interested in testing the effectiveness “incentivizing” or “forcing” parents to use the app, but we are not doing that in this evaluation. We consider “an effective policy” one which performs better than the “treatment as usual” case, which we will consider to be an existing, static website. Finally, we are studying the general population of caregivers of young children. No particular care was given to single out any particular subset of the population that might benefit the most (or the least) from Bebbio, nor those who would be most likely to use Bebbio.

### 3 Study Design

#### Experiment Design

This study follows a prepost design (Clifford, Sheagley, and Piston 2021) in which we measure the outcomes of interest before treatment (in a baseline survey) and after treatment (in an endline survey). We add an additional survey after the endline, referred to as a follow up, to look for longer-term impacts and test the impact of continued app usage.

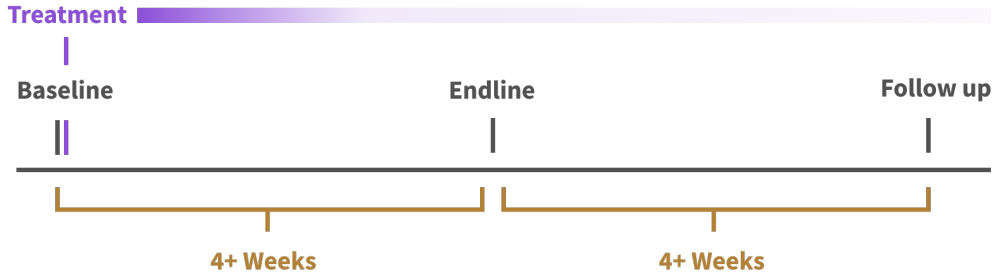


Figure 1: Study Design

Study participants are randomized, from the beginning, to one of two conditions:

1. **Treatment.** Participants in the treatment condition were told that there was one more step to qualify for the study and were then asked to download the app Bebbo and use it regularly, being encouraged that doing so will help them with their parenting.
2. **Control.** Participants in the control condition were told that there was one more step to qualify for the study and were then asked to visit a parenting website and use it regularly, being encouraged that doing so will help them with their parenting.

This follows a randomized encouragement design (Moayyedi and Hunt 2014), as participants were asked to participate in the treatment, but it was not forced, thus leading to takeup that is less than 100%. A randomized encouragement design is used here because:

1. We are interested in the impact of a treatment on a population where individuals can choose whether or not to take the treatment (the “compliers”).
2. The compliers and non-compliers might have different reactions to the treatment.

#### Treatment Condition

Participants were sent the following message at the end of the baseline survey:

There is just one more step to qualify for the Visa gift card of X. Please download Bebbo, the free parenting app, and discover how it can help you. Using Bebbo regularly can improve your interactions with your children and help you support their development better! You can do so by clicking the link below:

Clicking on the link led them to the Bebbo app page where they were invited to download the app via the app stores (Google or Apple). App usage in the treatment group was tracked via tracking ids sent with the link to the app download page, allowing us to follow the app usage of each individual treatment participant and measure takeup. If someone decided to ignore the page, and instead went on their own to search for and download Bebbo, we would not have data on their usage. Thus, usage data and takeup should be considered a lower bound.

[UNICEF TO ADD MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE APP AND HOW IT WORKS]

We collected all app usage events. For the sake of our study, we were interested in a subset of events that represented the accessing of content or features that contained information or might impact their behavior.

## Control Condition

Participants were sent the following message at the end of the baseline survey:

There is just one more step to qualify for the Visa gift card of X. Please visit the following free parenting website and discover how it can help you. Using this website regularly your interactions with your children and help you support their development better! You can do so by clicking the link below:

The choice to use a website as a treatment-as-usual (TAU) condition was decided by the evaluation and program team because it represented an alternative (and traditional/existing) way to solve the problem that the Bebbo app was trying to solve. Another option that was considered was to use an alternate parenting app, but the team believed that using a website gave the best chance to detect a difference in the use of an app, rather than the specific implementation of the Bebbo app. Similarly, several websites were considered, and the most basic website was chosen so as to be “static” - without interactive features - so that it acted as an informational resource rather than a web app or platform which would similarly overlap with the concepts behind the Bebbo app.

The website chosen for Bulgaria was 9meseca.bg. Due to a mistake in the implementation, no website was chosen for Serbia and the Bulgarian website was sent to participants in both countries. This implies that for Bulgaria, participants were provided a reasonable alternative to the app. However, in Serbia, they were sent a Bulgarian website, which would be expected to be suboptimal for the participants. Similarity of results across countries shows that the choice of the treatment-as-usual website did not materially affect results, as discussed in the sections on results.

## Recruitment

Participants were recruited to the study with social media ads on the Meta platform (Facebook and Instagram) using the Virtual Lab platform to create and run the recruitment ads. The Virtual Lab platform is used to track and measure the price-per-respondent across multiple strata, solving the core problem of monitoring, computing expectations, and adjusting budget when recruiting via social media platforms. In this study, recruitment was not stratified, due to initial budget pressures when stratifying in the initial pilot.

In exchange for participating in the study, participants were told they could receive gift cards worth up to 12 USD (in their local currency). See figure 2 for examples of the ad material used for recruiting. Recruitment and survey administration was performed on a rolling basis between March and October, 2023. Each individual participant was treated at the end of the baseline survey and sent the endline survey 4 weeks after completing the baseline survey.

The survey was administered via a chatbot in Facebook Messenger, using the Virtual Lab platform. Respondents who clicked on the advertisements were directed to a Messenger chat with the Virtual Lab Facebook page, which did not contain any content or information related to this study. Consent was provided via chat, as well as all answers to the survey questions and the treatment condition. Gift cards were also provided via chat, using the Tremendous gift card platform to provide Visa international prepaid cards. The Virtual Lab chatbot allowed the researchers to create multi-wave surveys, with independent timing. It additionally allowed the easy provision of gift cards at the end of each wave, which is integrated into the survey directly via the platform.

[TODO: add recruitment stats]



Figure 2: Recruitment Ads

## 4 Descriptives

### Respondent Characteristics by Country

Table 1 provides the baseline characteristics of the respondent population, separated by country.

Generally speaking, most respondents were themselves parents (not grandparents or other caregivers), women, under 35 years of age, and spoke the dominant language of the country at home. A little over half had children 0-2, compared to 2-6 years of age. Respondents in Bulgaria were more likely to have a university education (42%) compared to those in Serbia (29%).

Table 1: Baseline Respondent Characteristics

Variable	Value	Bulgaria	Bulgaria %	Serbia	Serbia %
Is Woman	1	1418	0.83	2102	0.80
University Educated	1	725	0.42	748	0.29
Speaks Dominant Lang.	1	1571	0.92	2488	0.95
Is Parent	1	1485	0.87	2374	0.91
Child Age	2-6	935	0.55	1561	0.60
Num. Children	4+	70	0.04	279	0.11
Parent Age	Over 35	365	0.21	550	0.21
Urban Area	1	1059	0.62	941	0.36

### Construct Variables

The outcomes of interest consist of eight constructs divided into three domains: knowledge and awareness, confidence and attitudes, and practices. The mapping between the constructs, domains, and questions that make up the constructs are laid out in table 20.

The constructs “Vaccine Knowledge”, “Parenting Confidence”, and “Breastfed” are made up of only one question. The construct “Activities Past 24h” consists of a count of the number of activities, within the previous 24 hours, that the respondent has done. The construct “Child Dev. Knowledge” consists of a series of true/false questions, which are averaged based on whether or not the respondent answered correctly. The rest of the constructs are created by averaging of a set of likert variables.

Descriptive statistics regarding the baseline responses for the outcomes are shown in table 2. Note that many of the constructs have quite high means and medians and some have a high proportion of respondents with the max score. In particular, 73% and 72% of respondents scored perfectly on the knowledge questions. This is problematic, as knowledge is often considered the easiest to change quickly and was a core outcome of interest for the team. Additionally, knowledge questions seem to be heavily impacted by the repeated survey effect, as discussed further down.

Table 2: Outcome Construct Descriptives Pooled Baseline

name	mean	median	min	max	sd	prop_max	prop_na
Activities Past 24h	4.92	5.0	0	6	1.23	0.41	0.00
Parenting Confidence	3.34	3.5	1	4	0.65	0.37	0.00
Positive Practices	3.20	3.5	1	4	0.75	0.27	0.00
Attitude to Phys. Punishment	3.13	3.0	1	4	0.84	0.36	0.00
Hostile Practices	3.04	3.0	1	4	0.69	0.15	0.00
Child Dev. Knowledge	0.86	1.0	0	1	0.28	0.73	0.00
Vaccine Knowledge	0.72	1.0	0	1	0.45	0.72	0.58
Breastfed	0.37	0.0	0	1	0.48	0.37	0.58

### Pre-Exposure to Bebbio

This study recruited Serbian and Bulgarian caregivers online, via social media ads, and invited half of them to download the app Bebbio. What if some people were already familiar with the app? Or had already downloaded and used it before?

If someone had already downloaded the app and still had it on their phone, we would not be able to track their usage and they would be considered “non-compliant” in this design. This is desirable from an analysis perspective, as these people are “always-takers” (Imbens and Rubin 2015) who would have the app regardless of whether they were assigned the treatment or control condition.

Many other people, however, might have decided not to download the app because they had heard about it before or tried it out before and deleted it. This is a concern for the study because these people might have already gotten use out of Bebbo: they could have used it and learned everything there is to learn from the app already.

To check for such “pre-exposure,” we ask control group users, at the end of the final follow up survey, if they have ever heard of Bebbo or used Bebbo.

55% of respondents said that they had heard about the app Bebbo and 23% said that they had downloaded and used the app Bebbo. It’s worth noting that there might be some social desirability bias or acquiescence bias (Stantcheva 2023) in these responses and we do not have a good way to detect that in this instance. However, despite those potential biases, this is strong suggestive evidence that there was pre-exposure to the treatment in our sample.

## Pre-Post Descriptives

One of the dangers of a pretest design is that you are priming your respondents with the first survey and that priming may impact how they answer the questions in the post-treatment survey(s) (Stantcheva 2023).

Given this particular study design, where our control is a “treatment as usual” (TAU) that involved sharing a website and we do not have data regarding the takeup, or usage, of the website, it is difficult to isolate a priming effect.

[TODO: Add an analysis of priming impact –i t-test for pre/post in the control group]

Plots of pre-post means are available in

## Power Analysis

Post-hoc power analysis was performed to see the ability to detect an effect, in terms of standardized deviations (corresponding to Coen's D effect sizes), in the datasets analyzed. To create the effect size, the standardized different is multiplied by the empirical takeup of 28%, which was the percentage of participants that had at least one learning event in the treatment group.

The results show that the study is reasonably powered (75%) to detect a medium effect size on the 28% takeup even when controlling for multiple testing (8 outcomes) with a Bonferroni correction. See figure 5.

## 5 Results

We run the following regression model to measure the intent-to-treat effect (ITT) of assignment to the treatment arm on the outcome construct ( $c$ ) of interest for individual  $i$ :

$$y_i = \alpha + \beta T_i + \gamma_1 X_i + \gamma_2 Z_i + \epsilon$$

Note that due to the relatively large number of sepearate outcomes (8), we adjust p-values of the treatment variable to control the false discovery rate (FDR), using Benjamini-Hochberg, reported as the “Adjusted Treatment p-value.”

Table 3: Pooled: OLS - Endline - Knowledge and Awareness

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Vaccine Knowledge	Child Dev. Knowledge
	(1)	(2)
Treatment	0.03 (0.03)	−0.004 (0.01)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.695	0.714
Observations	696	1,931
R <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.01
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 4: Pooled: OLS - Endline - Confidence and Attitudes

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Parenting Confidence	Attitude to Phys. Punishment
	(1)	(2)
Treatment	−0.02 (0.03)	0.08 (0.04)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.695	0.133
Observations	1,905	1,892
R <sup>2</sup>	0.003	0.01
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 5: Pooled: OLS - Endline - Practices

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Breastfed	Activities Past 24h	Positive Practices	Hostile Practices
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Treatment	−0.02 (0.03)	0.12 (0.05)	0.02 (0.03)	0.02 (0.03)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.695	0.133	0.695	0.695
Observations	657	1,832	1,832	1,827
R <sup>2</sup>	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01				



Table 6: Pooled: 2SLS - Endline - Knowledge and Awareness

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Vaccine Knowledge	Child Dev. Knowledge
	(1)	(2)
Used App	0.10 (0.11)	-0.02 (0.04)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.695	0.714
Weak instruments p-value	1.17e-28	2.44e-77
Wu-Hausman p-value	0.849	0.355
Observations	696	1,931
R <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.01
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 7: Pooled: 2SLS - Endline - Confidence and Attitudes

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Parenting Confidence	Attitude to Phys. Punishment
	(1)	(2)
Used App	-0.06 (0.10)	0.29 (0.14)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.695	0.139
Weak instruments p-value	7.65e-76	2.16e-76
Wu-Hausman p-value	0.353	0.0374
Observations	1,905	1,892
R <sup>2</sup>	0.001	-0.01
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 8: Pooled: 2SLS - Endline - Practices

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Breastfed	Activities Past 24h	Positive Practices	Hostile Practices
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Used App	-0.07 (0.09)	0.41 (0.20)	0.07 (0.12)	0.06 (0.11)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.695	0.139	0.695	0.695
Weak instruments p-value	3.8e-28	9.16e-75	6.29e-75	3.87e-75
Wu-Hausman p-value	0.805	0.027	0.671	0.306
Observations	657	1,832	1,832	1,827
R <sup>2</sup>	0.03	-0.01	0.01	0.005
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01				

Table 9: Pooled for Follow Up: OLS - Follow Up - Knowledge and Awareness

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Vaccine Knowledge	Child Dev. Knowledge
	(1)	(2)
Treatment	-0.003 (0.07)	-0.01 (0.02)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.999	0.999
Observations	134	420
R <sup>2</sup>	0.03	0.04
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 10: Pooled for Follow Up: OLS - Follow Up - Confidence and Attitudes

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Parenting Confidence	Attitude to Phys. Punishment
	(1)	(2)
Treatment	-0.05 (0.06)	0.0001 (0.08)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.999	0.999
Observations	419	419
R <sup>2</sup>	0.04	0.04
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 11: Pooled for Follow Up: OLS - Follow Up - Practices

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Breastfed	Activities Past 24h	Positive Practices	Hostile Practices
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Treatment	-0.11 (0.07)	0.07 (0.12)	0.004 (0.08)	-0.03 (0.07)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.796	0.999	0.999	0.999
Observations	133	417	417	416
R <sup>2</sup>	0.04	0.004	0.03	0.02
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01				

Table 12: Pooled for Follow Up: 2SLS - Follow Up - Knowledge and Awareness

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Vaccine Knowledge	Child Dev. Knowledge
	(1)	(2)
Used App	-0.02 (0.35)	-0.04 (0.08)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.999	0.999
Weak instruments p-value	6.1e-05	1.87e-17
Wu-Hausman p-value	0.443	0.522
Observations	134	420
R <sup>2</sup>	0.03	0.03
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 13: Pooled for Follow Up: 2SLS - Follow Up - Confidence and Attitudes

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
	Parenting Confidence	Attitude to Phys. Punishment
	(1)	(2)
Used App	-0.17 (0.24)	0.0003 (0.31)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.999	0.999
Weak instruments p-value	4.56e-17	4.56e-17
Wu-Hausman p-value	0.587	0.973
Observations	419	419
R <sup>2</sup>	0.03	0.04
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01		

Table 14: Pooled for Follow Up: 2SLS - Follow Up - Practices

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Breastfed	Activities Past 24h	Positive Practices	Hostile Practices
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Used App	-0.53 (0.33)	0.26 (0.47)	0.01 (0.30)	-0.13 (0.26)
Adjusted Treatment p-value	0.861	0.999	0.999	0.999
Weak instruments p-value	5.05e-05	1.18e-16	1.18e-16	1e-16
Wu-Hausman p-value	0.308	0.804	0.709	0.977
Observations	133	417	417	416
R <sup>2</sup>	-0.01	0.004	0.03	0.02
<i>Note:</i> *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01				

## 6 User Characteristics Correlated with App Usage

In this analysis, we attempt to answer the questions -

1. Who are the respondents who used the app?
2. Do more knowledgeable parents use the app more?

We do so by regressing respondents' app usage activity against their characteristics.

### Independent variables :

- **Baseline characteristics** - respondents' scores on the construct variables. We only use the construct variables that have sufficiently high internal consistency. We drop the constructs that are highly correlated with other constructs. We find *parent\_knw* to be correlated with *caregiver\_well\_being*. We drop the construct with lower reliability *caregiver\_well\_being*.
- Demographics variables - parents' age flag (categorical), university flag (binary), gender (categorical), and number of children (numeric)
- Survey response variables - survey duration, start week, country flag

### Dependent variables :

- Home opened - binary variable indicating whether the respondent had a home opened event logged
- Home opens - continuous count variable indicating the respondents' count of total home opens

### Home Opens and User Characteristics

For respondents who downloaded the app, we regress their number of home opens against their baseline characteristics, demographic variables, and survey response variables. The  $R^2$  for this model is 0.065. Note that the country flag is not significant which means that app usage does not differ significantly across the two countries after holding constant user characteristics (Table 15).

Table 15: home opens predicted by baseline characteristics

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )
(Intercept)	10.35	1.79	5.78	0
start_week	-0.15	0.03	-4.35	0
dev_knw_recog	0.36	0.59	0.60	0.55
confidence	-0.31	0.28	-1.08	0.28
attitude	-0.07	0.22	-0.30	0.76
caregiver_well_being	-0.90	0.34	-2.64	0.01
practices_24	-2.23	0.78	-2.85	0.005
practices_agree	0.31	0.26	1.19	0.23
practices_hostility	0.31	0.26	1.19	0.24
parent_age	-0.01	0.02	-0.82	0.41
number_children	0	0	0.36	0.72
parent_genderWoman	0.63	0.45	1.41	0.16
survey_duration	0.09	0.05	1.82	0.07
education	0.02	0.36	0.04	0.96
age_flag2-6	-1.22	0.34	-3.55	0
countryserbia	-0.09	0.58	-0.15	0.88

### Home Opened and User Characteristics

For respondents who were treated, i.e., asked to download the Bebo app, we fit a logistic regression model to whether the respondent had a home opened event logged using the respondents' baseline characteristics, demographic variables, and their survey response variables (Table ??). The goodness of fit measure used is the percentage improvement in deviance over the null deviance (pseudo  $R^2$ ). The pseudo  $R^2$  for this model is 0.03.

Table 16: home opened (binary) predicted by baseline characteristics

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	1.11	0.52	2.15	0.03
start_week	-0.04	0.01	-3.87	0
dev_knw_recog	0.31	0.17	1.84	0.06
confidence	-0.15	0.08	-1.89	0.06
attitude	0.01	0.06	0.22	0.82
caregiver_well_being	-0.20	0.09	-2.12	0.03
practices_24	-0.62	0.22	-2.77	0.01
practices_agree	0.13	0.07	1.84	0.07
practices_hostility	-0.10	0.07	-1.44	0.15
parent_age	-0.02	0.01	-3.71	0
number_children	0	0	0.24	0.81
parent_genderWoman	0.31	0.13	2.47	0.01
survey_duration	0.06	0.01	4.59	0
education	0.11	0.10	1.12	0.26
age_flag2-6	0.11	0.10	1.15	0.25
countryserbia	0.20	0.16	1.29	0.20

## References

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## A Baseline Balance

To test for balance between our randomly assigned treatment and control groups, we run an omnibus test, following Hansen and Bowers (2008), to observe standardized differences at baseline and the associated omnibus p-value. Results are found in table 17.

The most notable variable is the practices\_24 and was\_breastfed, which differ a bit between the groups although they are still under 0.1 standard deviations in their difference. The omnibus test, with a p-value above 0.13, implies that the two groups are not different in a statistically significant manner.

## B Additional Plots

### Correlations within constructs

Table 17: Baseline Balance Pooled

	control_mean	treatment_mean	standardized_diff	z_score
health_knw	0.73	0.71	-0.06	-1.20
dev_knw_recog	0.86	0.85	-0.04	-1.29
confidence	3.33	3.34	0.01	0.37
attitude	3.14	3.11	-0.04	-1.23
was_breastfed	0.35	0.39	0.08	1.79
practices_24	4.97	4.87	-0.07	-2.46
practices_agree	3.20	3.19	-0.01	-0.39
practices_hostility	3.03	3.04	0.004	0.12
(health_knw)	0.42	0.43	0.02	0.67
(was_breastfed)	0.42	0.43	0.02	0.61

Overall P-Value: 0.134132865981628

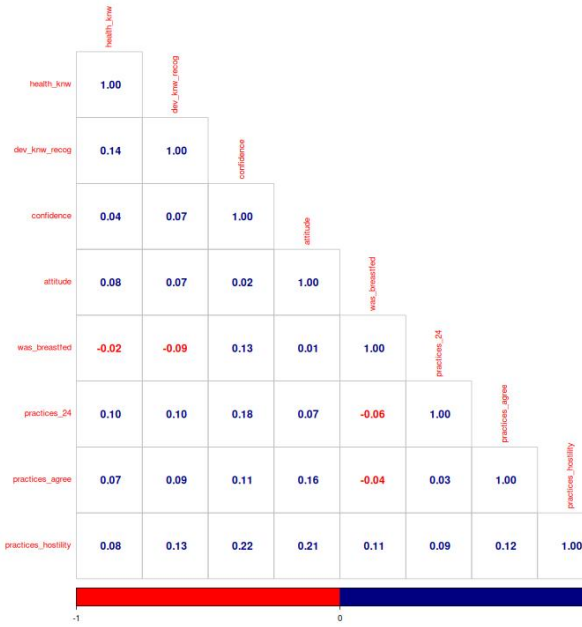


Figure 3: Construct Correlations - Serbia

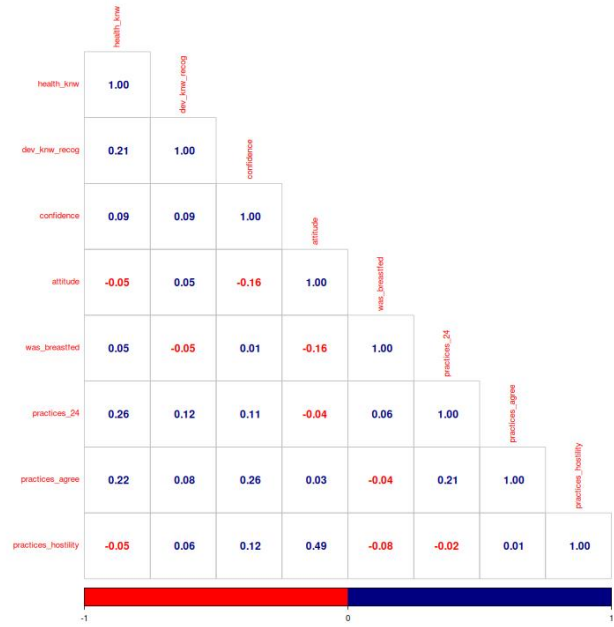


Figure 4: Construct Correlations - Bulgaria

## Pre-Post Plots

## C Additional Tables

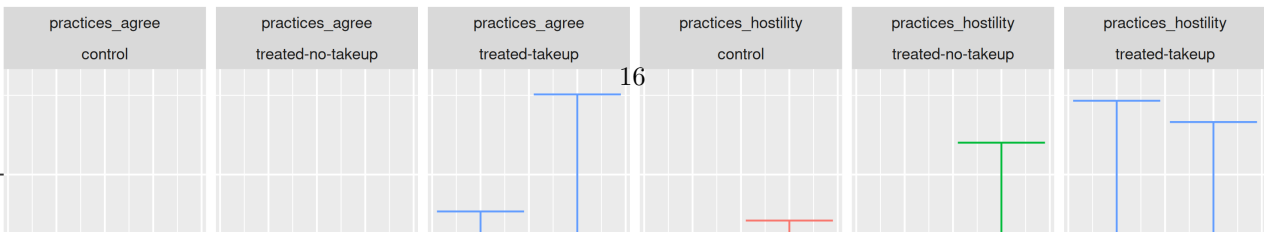
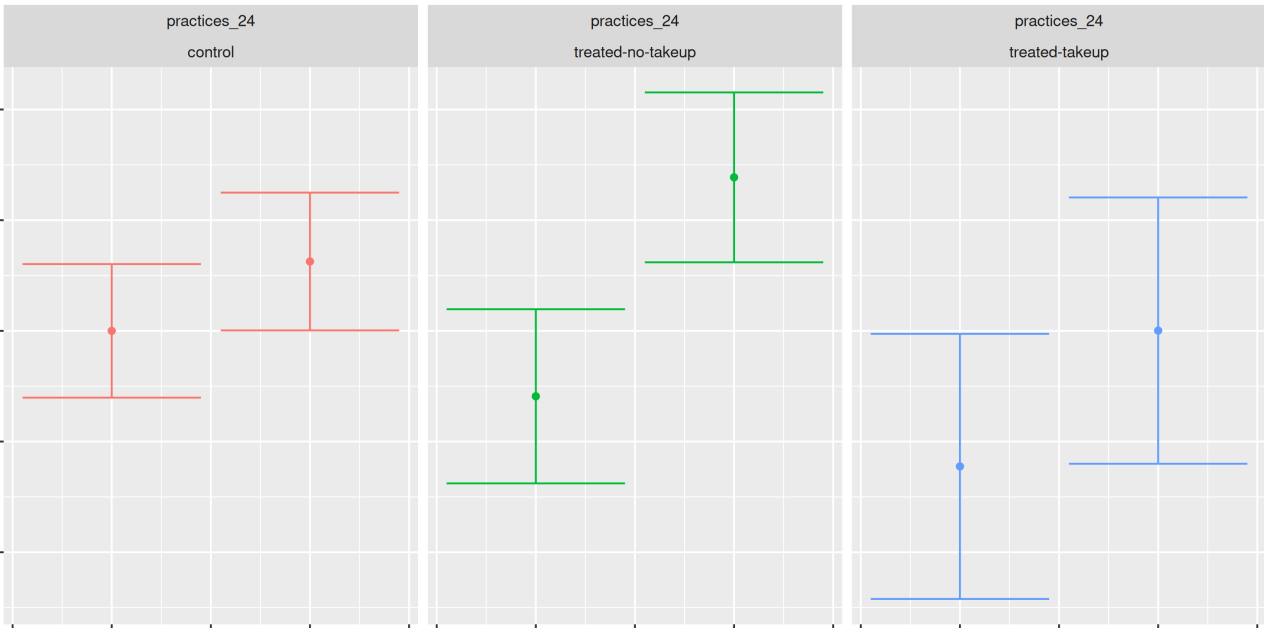
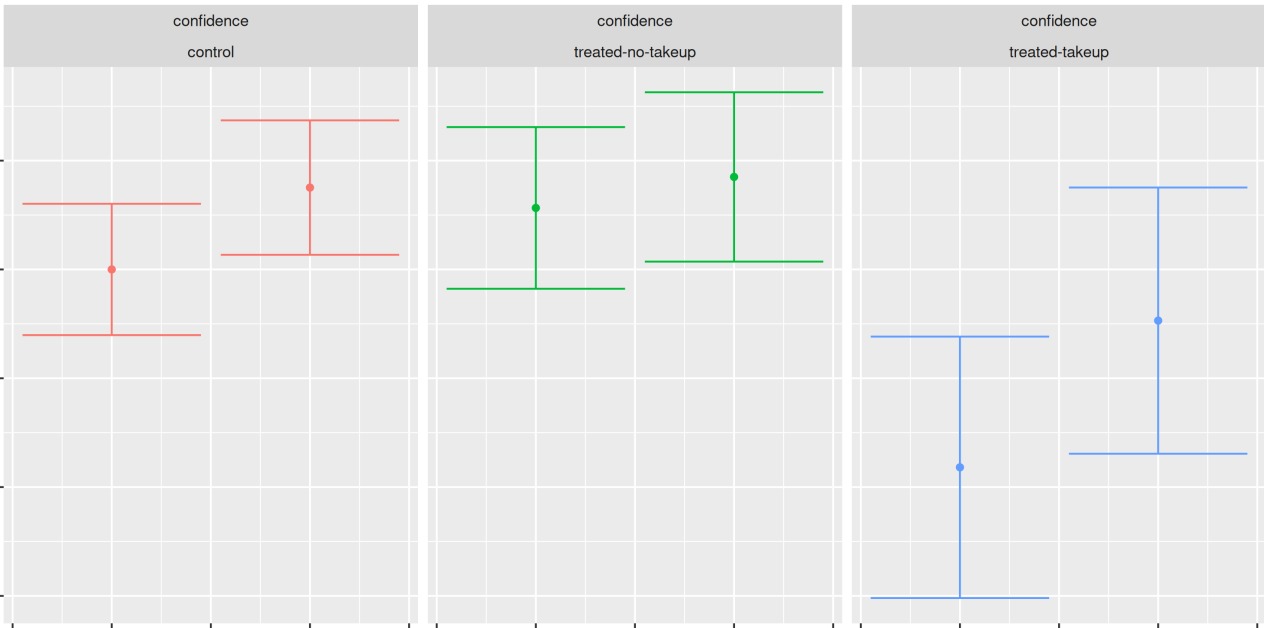
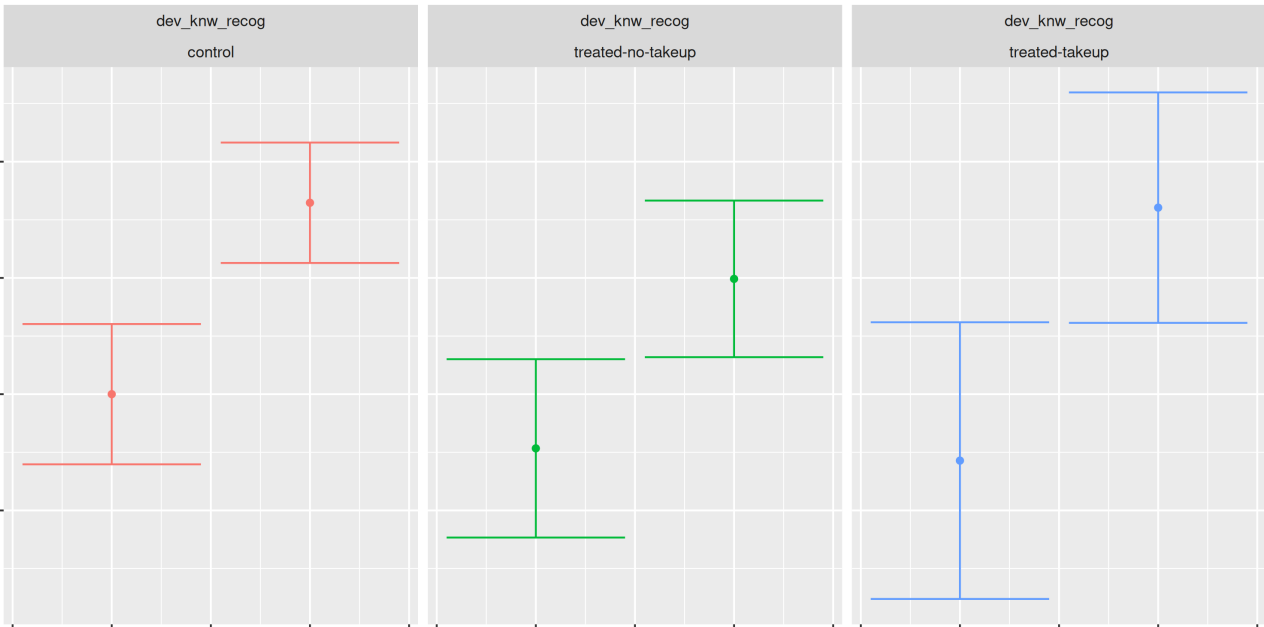
Table 18: Outcome Construct Descriptives Serbia Baseline

name	mean	median	min	max	sd	prop_max	prop_na
Activities Past 24h	5.06	5.0	0	6	1.16	0.46	0.00
Parenting Confidence	3.41	3.5	1	4	0.65	0.43	0.00
Hostile Practices	3.06	3.0	1	4	0.67	0.18	0.00
Attitude to Phys. Punishment	3.05	3.0	1	4	0.82	0.31	0.00
Positive Practices	2.93	3.0	1	4	0.81	0.24	0.00
Child Dev. Knowledge	0.87	1.0	0	1	0.27	0.76	0.00
Vaccine Knowledge	0.76	1.0	0	1	0.43	0.76	0.61
Breastfed	0.41	0.0	0	1	0.49	0.41	0.61

Table 19: Outcome Construct Descriptives Bulgaria Baseline

name	mean	median	min	max	sd	prop_max	prop_na
Activities Past 24h	4.71	5.00	0.0	6	1.33	0.36	0.00
Positive Practices	3.59	3.75	1.5	4	0.40	0.32	0.00
Parenting Confidence	3.32	3.50	1.0	4	0.63	0.34	0.00
Attitude to Phys. Punishment	3.14	3.00	1.0	4	0.93	0.41	0.00
Hostile Practices	2.97	3.00	1.0	4	0.74	0.11	0.00
Child Dev. Knowledge	0.84	1.00	0.0	1	0.30	0.70	0.00
Vaccine Knowledge	0.67	1.00	0.0	1	0.47	0.67	0.55
Breastfed	0.33	0.00	0.0	1	0.47	0.33	0.55

## D Survey Instrument





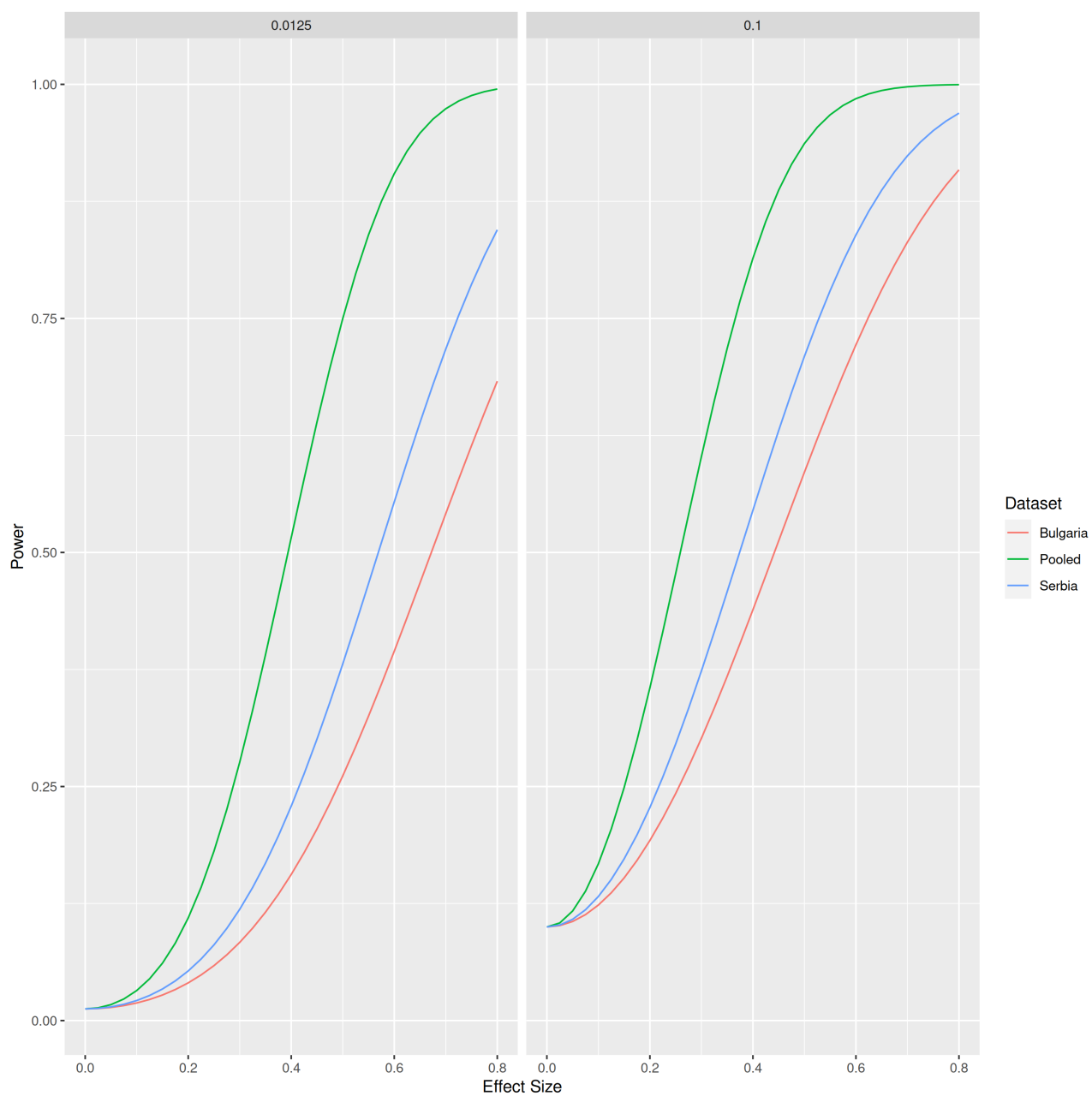


Figure 5: Power Analysis at 28% Takeup

Table 20: Construct Variable Mapping

Domain	construct_variable	question
Knowledge and awareness	health_knw	I know which vaccine {{field:child_name}} needs to take next.
Knowledge and awareness	dev_knw_recog	I would be able to recognize if {{field:child_name}} lags behind in social-emotional development (expressing and recognizing feelings and emotions, engaging in interactions, etc.).
Knowledge and awareness	dev_knw_recog	I would be able to recognize if {{field:child_name}} lags behind in cognitive development (mental development, intellectual development).
Knowledge and awareness	dev_knw_recog	I would be able to recognize if {{field:child_name}} lags behind in physical development.
Knowledge and awareness	dev_knw_recog	I would be able to recognize if {{field:child_name}} lags behind in language development.
Confidence and attitudes	confidence	How confident do you feel in your ability to deal with {{field:child_name}}'s emotions?
Confidence and attitudes	confidence	How confident do you feel in your ability to respond properly when {{field:child_name}} misbehaves?
Confidence and attitudes	attitude	Do you agree that in order to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly, the child needs to be physically punished?
Confidence and attitudes	caregiver_well_being	How often can you handle stressful parenting situations successfully?
Practices	was_breastfed	Has {{field:child_name}} been breastfed in the last 24 hours?
Practices	practices_24	In the past 24 hours, did you read books or look at picture books with {{field:child_name}}?
Practices	practices_24	In the past 24 hours, did you tell stories with {{field:child_name}}?
Practices	practices_24	In the past 24 hours, did you sing songs (including lullabies) to or with {{field:child_name}}?
Practices	practices_24	In the past 24 hours, did you take {{field:child_name}} outside the home?
Practices	practices_24	In the past 24 hours, did you play with {{field:child_name}}?
Practices	practices_24	In the past 24 hours, did you name, count or draw things with or for {{field:child_name}}?
Practices	practices_agree	When {{field:child_name}} and I play together, we laugh a lot.
Practices	practices_agree	I joke around with {{field:child_name}}.
Practices	practices_agree	I often smile when I'm around {{field:child_name}}.
Practices	practices_agree	{{field:child_name}} and I play together on the floor.
Practices	practices_hostility	I snap at {{field:child_name}} when he/she gets on my nerves.
Practices	practices_hostility	When {{field:child_name}} upsets me, I lose my patience and punish him/her more severely than I really mean to.
Practices	practices_hostility	When {{field:child_name}} does something wrong, I sometimes threaten him/her.
Practices	practices_hostility	I sometimes make fun of {{field:child_name}}.