

### **The effect of on presence and quality of social safety nets**

Effect: NA

Confidence in study findings: Low

Headline finding: Training and job creation interventions that include life skills and mentoring can create lasting support networks for women.

### **Short summary**

This review assessed the effects of training and job creation interventions in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Programmes which combine technical training with mentoring and group activities can successfully build informal social safety nets—notably peer support groups, mentorship networks, and collective savings or business initiatives.

### **Long summary**

#### *The intervention*

Training and job creation includes technical skills (e.g., tailoring, agriculture, dairy training), life skills (e.g., negotiation, reproductive health, self-defence), and business skills. These may be combined with structured mentoring, and support services (e.g., cash stipends, childcare, legal referrals).

#### *How the intervention is expected to work*

The interventions worked by improving skills and creating relationships with mentors and fellow trainees which create lasting relationships which can provide safety nets. These safety nets may provide emotional, informational, and sometimes financial support.

#### *The evidence base*

This summary cell consists of one systematic review which consisted of 104 studies conducted in 29 fragile and conflict-affected countries. Most of the studies were randomized controlled trials; others used quasi-experimental designs. Two of the studies have relevant evidence for this cell.

#### *Review evidence*

Multicomponent interventions which combine technical training with other activities such as life skills appear more effective. For social safety nets the interventions should also include group activities or mentoring which build lasting relationships.

In EPAG in Liberia girls were formed into support groups, helping each other academically and emotionally. In Afghanistan women-maintained contact after training, collaborated on businesses, and created safe spaces for sharing knowledge.

*Effect:* The study does not mention any effect size, the data are narratively synthesized

*Confidence assessment:* The review is high confidence, but the cell summary is rated low confidence because of the small number of included studies and reliance on qualitative synthesis.

Source: Lwamba (2022)

Lwamba E, Shisler S, Ridlehoover W, Kupfer M, Tshabalala N, Nduku P, Langer L, Grant S, Sonnenfeld A, Anda D, Evers J, Snilstveit B. Strengthening women's empowerment and gender equality in fragile contexts towards peaceful and inclusive societies: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Campbell Syst Rev.* 2022 Mar 8;18(1):e1214. doi: 10.1002/cl2.1214. PMID: 36913184; PMCID: PMC8904729.