

The effect of training & job creation on access to justice, rights, and public services

Headline finding: Training programmes which include an explicit focus on rights can increase awareness of these rights, though the effects are small.

Geographical distribution: Sub Saharan Africa

Effect: Small effect ($g=0.056$, from one study)

Confidence in study findings: Medium confidence

Short summary

Training programs that integrate life skills or vocational training with women's rights education can modestly improve awareness of rights and confidence to engage with justice and public services. Studies in the DRC and Ethiopia show small but positive effects on attitudes, community support, and women's use of services.

Long summary

The intervention

Training programmes – such as programmes for vocational training or life skills can include components or activities intended to increase awareness of women's rights, including access to justice.

How is the intervention expected to work

Training interventions which include may directly address rights as a main focus or include activities which do so.

The evidence base

The summary cell consists of one systematic review that covers 104 impact evaluations spread across different regions, focussed on interventions that support women's empowerment and gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The review includes three studies which are relevant to this cell.

The review evidence

The review evidence included four studies that were eligible that affected access to justice, rights and public services.

Tanner and O'Connor (2017a) evaluated a program in the Democratic Republic of Congo that offered life skills sessions, mentoring, and safe spaces. Their findings showed small ($g=0.056$, 5 effect sizes) but positive effects on women's attitudes toward their economic, social, and human rights, suggesting that such training helped build awareness and confidence to engage with justice and service systems.

In Ethiopia, Sharma et al. (2020) studied participatory training programs for women, men, and couples, which included community discussions and ceremonies. These interventions

improved community support for women's rights and helped women engage more actively with public services, even though direct measures of legal access were not always included.

Similarly, Leight (2021) evaluated a gender-transformative program in Ethiopia that aimed to strengthen women's knowledge of their rights and how to access services. The study found a small but statistically significant improvement in women's ability to access justice and public services, highlighting the value of combining skills training with rights education.

Confidence assessment: The review is rated high confidence, but the cell is rated medium confidence because of the small number of studies.

Source: Lwamba (2022)

Lwamba E, Shisler S, Ridlehoover W, Kupfer M, Tshabalala N, Nduku P, Langer L, Grant S, Sonnenfeld A, Anda D, Eyers 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.