



Save the Children



Youth in Action Egypt Tracer Study

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Jane Leer and Nikhit D'Sa, November 2017

Youth in Action (YiA) is a six-year program implemented by Save the Children in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. The goal of YiA is to improve the socioeconomic status of around 40,000 out-of-school young people (12-18 years), both girls and boys, in rural Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda. The Theory of Change is to achieve this by enhancing youths' foundational skills and social assets, facilitating their action in livelihoods opportunities, and building key partnerships to remove barriers to youth's participation in their economies and communities. In Egypt, YiA started in September 2013. The program aims to reach 8,200 youth in some of the most vulnerable and rural communities of two governorates: Assuit in Upper Egypt and Sharqiya in the Delta.

Study Design

The Tracer Study is a retrospective study. A sample of youth who graduated from the YiA program at least nine months before data collection were asked a set of questions that required them to reflect back on their socioeconomic and livelihood status before starting YiA and at the present moment. These data are used to answer two research questions:

- **RQ1:** What changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes do youth retrospectively report several months after finishing their engagement with YiA?
- **RQ2:** To what extent are these changes explained by demographic characteristics and the amount of time that has passed since completing YiA?

Sample

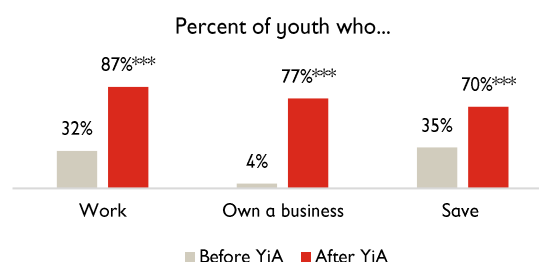
The tracer study sample consists of 487 youth (251 female, 236 male), ranging in age from 14 to 22 years, with an average age of 17. On average, youth in this sample completed YiA 16 months prior to data collection.

Analytic Strategy

To answer RQ1, we compare youths' responses to questions about education, work, family support, mentor support, autonomy, and entrepreneurial skills before and after YiA, and between male and female youth. To answer RQ2, we fit a series of multiple regression models to estimate the relation between sociodemographic characteristics, months since completing YiA, and reported changes in socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes

Findings

RQ1: A significantly greater percent of youth reported working, owning a business, and saving after YiA. In terms of the enabling environment, youth reported increases in the types of material and emotional support received from their family and greater support from mentors. They also reported greater autonomy in socioeconomic and livelihood decisions and increased entrepreneurial skills. Reported gains in daily income were small but statistically significant (the average reported gain was 6.60 EGP, or 0.37 USD).



* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

RQ2: Sex was the strongest predictor of youths' self-reported gains. Male youth made greater gains than female youth in daily income, such that the gap in income between male and female youth was larger after YiA than before. However, the percent of female youth who reported working increased substantially, from 13% before YiA to 84% after. Female youth also reported greater gains in emotional support from families, mentor support, autonomy in economic and livelihoods decisions, and entrepreneurial skills.

Limitations

Because this study relies on retrospective information on youth's perceptions of their socioeconomic and livelihood status at the two different time points, and because we have no comparison group, we have no way of knowing what youths' outcomes would have been in the absence of YiA. Rather than the impact of YiA, our findings represent the role of YiA in socioeconomic and livelihood development from the perspective of YiA youth.

Messages

1. Youth reported significant gains in socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes several months after graduating YiA
2. Male youth made greater gains in income, and a large gap between male and female youth in terms of income and savings remains.
3. However, after YiA the difference in the percentage of youth working and level of autonomy between males and females is no longer present, and there is some evidence that female youth have more support and more skills than male youth after YiA.

Table of Contents

Overview of the Tracer Study.....	5
What is the Youth in Action Project?	5
Youth in Action in Egypt.....	5
Purpose of this Study.....	6
Study Design.....	6
Research Questions	6
Measures.....	7
Sample	8
Findings	9
RQ1: What changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes do youth retrospectively report several months after finishing their engagement with YiA?.....	9
Work.....	10
Income and household assets	11
Spending and saving	14
Support from family.....	16
Support from mentors	17
Autonomy in economic decision-making.....	18
Entrepreneurial skills.....	19
RQ2: To what extent are the changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes that youth reported explained by demographic characteristics and the amount of time that has passed since completing YiA,?.....	20
Limitations of this Study.....	22
Discussion.....	23
Appendix A: Sociodemographic information of the sample	24
Appendix B: Internal consistency reliabilities of composite indicators of socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes.....	25
Appendix C: Fitted estimates of equity analysis predicting self-reported change in socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes.....	26

Tables

Table 1. Measures used in the Tracer Study.....	7
Table 2. Months Since Completing YiA and YiA Pathway Chosen.....	8
Table 3. Education level.....	9
Table 4. Types of work youth are engaged in, by sex.....	11
Table 5. Youth's self-reported daily income, full sample.....	11
Table 6. Youth's self-reported daily income for youth who worked before and after YiA.....	12
Table 7. Youth's self-reported daily income, by sex.....	12
Table 8. Household assets before and after YiA.....	13
Table 9. Youth spending practices after YiA, by sex.....	14
Table 10. Savings amount before and after YiA.....	15
Table 11. Savings amount before and after YiA, by sex	15

Table 12. Amount of financial support from families	16
Table 13. Material support from family	17
Table 14. Emotional support from family	17
Table 15. Relationship between mentors and youth	18
Table 16. Support from mentor	18
Table 17. Youth decision making	19
Table 18. Youth skills	19
Table 19. Socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes used to explore RQ2	20
Table 20. Distribution of the sample according to district and village	24
Table 21. Basic sociodemographic information, by sex	24
Table 22. Scale reliability coefficient (Alpha) for socioeconomic and livelihood outcome indices	25
Table 23. Fitted estimates of the association between sociodemographic characteristics and reported changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes	26
Table 24. Fitted estimates of the association between months since completing YiA and reported changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes, controlling for sociodemographic characteristics	27

Figures

Figure 1. Percent of male and female youth working before and after YiA	10
Figure 2. Number of different kinds of work youth are engaged in	10
Figure 3. Distribution of reported daily income before and after YiA, by sex	12
Figure 4. Youth spending practices	14
Figure 5. How youth spend saved money	15
Figure 6. Where youth save	16
Figure 7. Equity implications of differential gains in emotional support, mentor support, autonomy, and skills	22



Overview of the Tracer Study

What is the Youth in Action Project?

Youth in Action (YiA) is a six-year program implemented by Save the Children in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation. The goal of YiA is to improve the socioeconomic status of around 40,000 out-of-school young people (12-18 years), both girls and boys, in rural Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda. The Theory of Change is to achieve this by enhancing youths' foundational skills and social assets, facilitating their action in livelihoods opportunities, and building key partnerships to remove barriers to youth's participation in their economies and communities.

YiA supports youth to identify and explore livelihood opportunities through a combination of nonformal education and practice-oriented learning experiences. For many youth, these livelihood opportunities are grounded in agricultural value chains or agri-business. While there is a wide array of programs focusing on education for out of school youth or on youth employment, very few incorporate employability, social assets, literacy, numeracy, financial literacy, and real-life experience. YiA integrates all of the above into a participatory learning cycle, designed to increase livelihoods opportunities through the acquisition of a broad spectrum of foundational and work-readiness skills.

Youth in Action in Egypt

The project in Egypt aims to reach 8,200 youth in some of the most vulnerable and rural communities of two governorates: Assuit in Upper Egypt and Sharqiya in the Delta. The project targets youth between the ages of 12-18 separated into age-specific groups; the younger target group is youth between the ages of 12-14 years and the older target group is youth between the ages of 15-18 years.

Youth are enrolled in the program for eight to nine months. Youth start with the learning sessions to improve their literacy, numeracy, financial literacy, transferable life skills, and knowledge of the resources in their communities; they are gradually involved in business training, market assessments during their learning phase.

Within 4-5 months youth are expected to be ready to choose their action pathways. After youth select their pathways, they are provided with a monetary stipend of 110 USD for the older age group youth and 70 USD for the younger age group youth, they procure their tools, and are supported for another 3-4 months while they implement their pathways.

While youth in both targeted age cohorts receive a similar program, there are marked differences in the approaches to both target age groups, based on the needs of each age group. Below is a brief overview of the main differences in the program for youth from the two different targeted age groups.

	Younger target groups (12-14 years)	Older target groups (15-18 years)
Focus on literacy and numeracy	Six-month literacy and numeracy package focused on accelerated learning. Package enables youth to obtain National Literacy Certificate	Four-month literacy and numeracy curriculum that is embedded within the overall YiA curriculum
Pathway options	Two pathway options—back to school and entrepreneurship	Two pathway options—apprenticeship/vocational training and entrepreneurship

Training on economic options	Technical training on selected economic options are hosted for groups within the YiA learning centers	Youth are supported in conducting more practical market assessments and receive more first-hand exposure to the market
Support after learning phase	Youth continue attending classes within the learning center for two months after they start implementing their pathways to complete their literacy package, while receiving technical support and follow up by the project's Action Facilitators and mentors on the implementation of their selected pathways	Youth are linked to business mentors who support them through bi-weekly visits for two months as they are implementing their livelihood pathways and are followed up by the project's Action Facilitators

Purpose of this Study

The data collected from beneficiaries and stakeholders in previous YiA studies have focused on the outcomes during youth's participation with the program, or right after they have finished the program. While we have some anecdotal information about the trajectories of youths' lives after they leave YiA, we do not have structured data on their livelihood development. This Tracer Study aims to understand the added value of YiA in the lives of youth several months after they have left the program. In other words, this study helps us uncover the changes that have occurred in the lives of YiA beneficiaries after they have graduated from the program.

Given these aims, the Tracer Study tracks down youth who have graduated from the program more than nine months before data collection and conducts a 1:1 survey with them. The Tracer Study focuses on outcome areas that are aligned with the YiA Theory of Change and the Learning Framework. The outcomes from this Tracer Study will feed into individual learning question narratives and help us understand participants' perceptions of the effect of YiA on their ultimate socioeconomic outcomes.

Study Design

The tracer study is a retrospective study. We asked youth to think back to their life before YiA and provide responses based on this recall. Following the International Labor Organization's guidance¹ on designing a tracer study, we asked youth a similar set of questions that require youth to reflect back on their socioeconomic and livelihood status

1. Before starting YiA
2. At the present moment

The **Tracer Study is not focused on establishing causal links between attending YiA and changes in youth socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes.** In other words, there is a limited amount that we can say about YiA *causing* changes in youth outcomes; rather we explore the *effect* of YiA on youth livelihood development *from the perspective of YiA youth.*

Research Questions

Our primary research question is:

1. What changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes do youth retrospectively report several months after finishing their engagement with YiA?

¹ ILO (2011). Child labour impact assessment toolkit: Tracer study manual. Geneva, Switzerland: International Labour Organization.



We are also interested in how youths' perceptions differ according to their demographic characteristics and the number of months that have passed since they completed YiA activities.² Thus, our second research question is:

2. To what extent are the changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes that youth report explained by demographic characteristics and the amount of time that has passed since completing YiA?

Measures

The table below provides a mapping of the main outcome areas and describes how the Tracer Study outcomes link to the YiA Learning Framework. Tracer Study data were collected by trained enumerators via one-on-one, in-person interviews with youth respondents.

Table 1. Measures used in the Tracer Study

Outcome	Description/Items	Mapping to Indicator or Learning Question
Socioeconomic status	Poverty questions adapted from the DHS wealth index	Goal: % of youth enrolled in the program who record an improvement in socio-economic status at endline over baseline
Income	Amount of income and productive assets Use of Income	
Work status	Hours worked Type of work	What improvements in self-employment capabilities do we observe in youth engaged with the YiA program model?
Savings	Amount saved Frequency of savings Access to financial services	
Entrepreneurial skills	Youth perceptions of their entrepreneurship competencies	
Mentorship	Type of business mentor Nature of business mentorship	How successful have peer-to-peer and business mentorship been in providing youth with opportunities to grow their businesses?
Family support for work	Amount of financial support Presence of physical and emotional support for workforce development	How has the YiA program affected parental support (e.g.: financial contribution) of livelihood development in youth?

² In studies from other YiA countries, we also asked whether the YiA pathway chosen is associated with changes in socioeconomic outcomes, and whether or not youth who were parents prior to YiA report differential changes in outcomes. We do not include these factors in the Egypt Tracer Study because in Egypt more than 98% of youth chose the Entrepreneurship pathway, and only 1 youth was a parent prior to YiA.

Sample

Because this study is focused on the youths' perceptions of the effect of YiA after (a) *youth have graduated from YiA*, and (b) *youth have spent some time away from the project*, the population this study seeks to extrapolate to are *all youth who graduated from YiA nine months ago, or more*. This means that youth from any cohort that completed the learning phase, action phase, and post-action monitoring more than nine months ago were eligible to participate in the study.

Given the total direct beneficiary population in Egypt, a 5 percent margin of error, 95 percent confidence interval, and a 50 percent response distribution, the Tracer Study sample size was designed to be 400 youth in Egypt.

The Egypt country team used a stratified random sampling approach. After creating a list of all project graduates who had completed the project more than nine months ago, the team stratified the list by gender (a 50:50 ratio of males to females), cohort (the recruited sample should be spread equally across all cohorts) and districts (the sample should be proportional to the main districts participating in YiA). The team then used a random number generator to recruit 800 youth for the Where are they Now List (WNL)³. After creating the WNL the team went to the field with the plan to collect data from the first 400 youth from the list.

Because of over-sampling, the team was able to collect data from **487 youth (251 female, 236 male)**, ranging in age from 14 to 22 years, with an **average age of 17 years**.

Table 2 describes the distribution of youth in the Tracer Study sample according to YiA pathway chosen and cohort (time in months since graduating YiA).⁴ The majority of youth participating in YiA in Egypt chose the Entrepreneurship pathway (99%).

Table 2. Months Since Completing YiA and YiA Pathway Chosen

YiA Cohort		
	Percent of female youth	Percent of male youth
10 months	26%	24%
15 months	27%	28%
18 months	32%	24%
23 months	15%	24%
Total	100%	100%
YiA Pathway Chosen		
	Percent of female youth	Percent of male youth
Employment	1%	0

³ ILO (2011). Child labour impact assessment toolkit: Tracer study manual. Geneva, Switzerland: International Labour Organization.

⁴Time since graduating YIA was calculated by subtracting the month of Tracer Study data collection from the official end month for the cohort that the youth attended.

What percent of youth in this sample are parents?

Only 1 youth (a female) in this sample reported having children prior to YiA. 10 youth (about 2% of the total sample, all females) reported having children after YiA.

Marriage is also uncommon in this sample, for both males and females, as shown below.

		Female youth	Male youth
Has children	Before YiA	0%	0%
	After YiA	2%	0%***
Is married	Before YiA	2%	1%
	After YiA	8%	1%***

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Entrepreneurship	99%	99%
Apprenticeship	0%	0%
Vocational training	0%	1%
Total	100%	100%
N	251	236

On average, youth had completed 4.5 years of education prior to YiA, and there is no difference between male and female youth in terms of number of years of education completed. Table 3 presents the sample distribution according to level of education completed.

Table 3. Education level

	Percent of female youth	Percent of male youth
No education	16%	10%
Some primary	39%	49%
Primary complete	24%	24%
Some preparatory	18%	15%
Preparatory complete	3%	2%
Years of education	4.5	4.6
N	244	231

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Findings

RQ1: What changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes do youth retrospectively report several months after finishing their engagement with YiA?

To answer Research Question 1, for each outcome we work through three steps:

1. Conduct descriptive statistics comparing youths' self-reported outcomes before and after YiA.
2. Fit a one-sample t-test (for continuous outcomes) or a one-sample z-test (for binary outcomes) to assess whether the difference in self-reported outcomes before and after YiA is statistically significant.
3. Understand whether or not there is a significant difference between male and female youths' reported outcomes. We report differences that are meaningful (i.e., statistically and practically significant).
 - a. For binary outcomes, we conduct two sample z-tests comparing the difference in outcomes between male and female youth prior to YiA, and two-sample z-tests comparing the difference in outcomes between male and female youth after YiA.
 - b. For continuous outcomes, we fit a univariate regression model, with youth's self-reported change in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes modeled as a function of sex. This tells us whether or not there is a statistically significant association between sex (being a female, or being a male) and the reported change in outcomes.



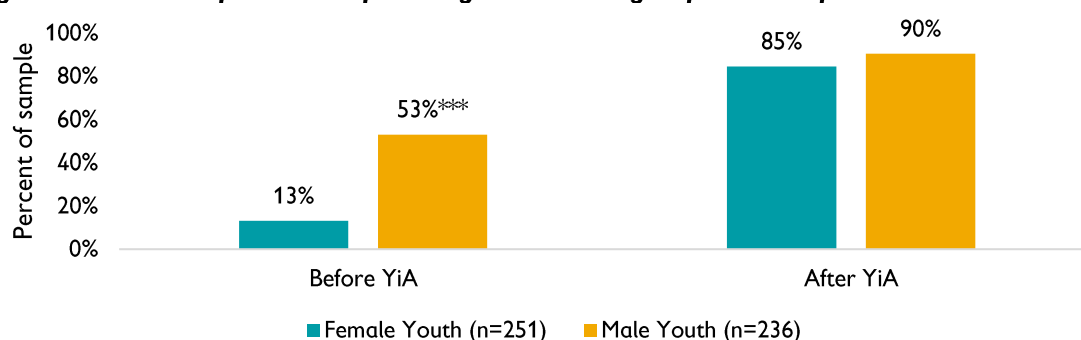
Work

Work was defined as any activity that youth did for themselves, their family, or for someone else for which they received some kind of payment. This payment may have been money, or some other type of payment like food or things.

32% of youth said they were working before YiA, and 87% said they are currently working. In addition, **4% reported owning a business prior to YiA, compared to 77% who reported owning a business now.** Both of these differences are statistically significant at $p < 0.001$.

Male youth were more likely than female youth to report working before YiA (53% compared to 13%, respectively), but after YiA there is no difference in the percent of male versus female youth who reported working, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Percent of male and female youth working before and after YiA



Among the sample of youth who worked both before and after YiA, a **greater percent reported being engaged in only one kind of work after YiA, as opposed to seasonal work or engagement in multiple kinds of work at the same time** (see figure 2).

Figure 2. Number of different kinds of work youth are engaged in

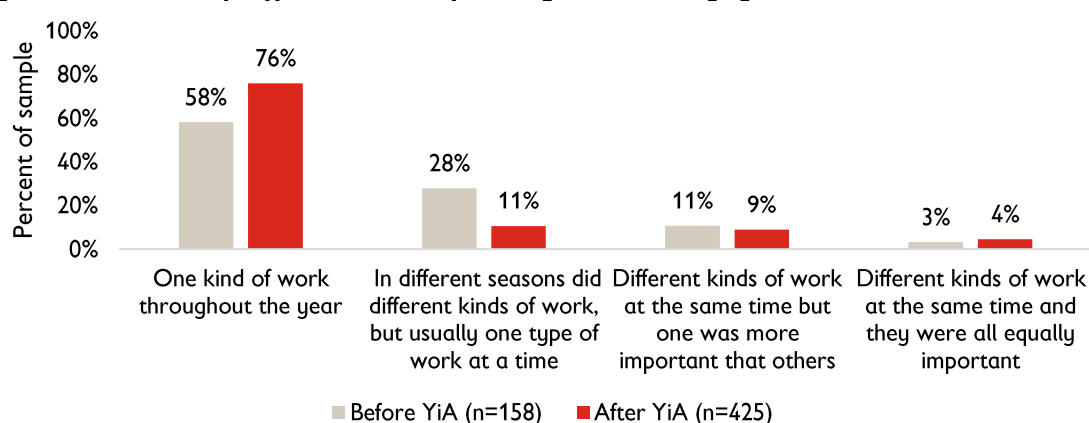


Table 4 presents the types of work (i.e., sector) that youth were engaged in before and after YiA. Female youth were more likely than male youth to work in garments both before and after YiA. After YiA, female youth were more likely to work in sales and to own a business than male youth. **Nearly all (97%) of the female youth who worked after YiA also owned a business.**

Meanwhile, male youth were more likely than female youth to work in construction before YiA. After YiA, male youth were more likely to work in agriculture, food enterprises, automotive, construction and transport. Both before and after YiA, male youth were engaged in more kinds of work (e.g., more sectors) on average than female youth, although this difference is small (1.5 versus 1.2).

Table 4. Types of work youth are engaged in, by sex

	Before YiA			After YiA		
	Female Youth	Male Youth	p-value	Female Youth	Male Youth	p-value
Youth owned a business⁵	9%	14%		97%	81%	***
Agriculture	39%	28%		4%	23%	***
Garments	21%	2%	***	22%	2%	***
Food enterprises	18%	10%		3%	12%	***
Sales	15%	8%		26%	11%	***
Other	9%	8%		4%	7%	
Trading agriculture	0%	2%		3%	2%	
Animal rearing	0%	9%		43%	38%	
Animal trading	0%	2%		8%	6%	
Automotive	0%	8%		0%	4%	**
Construction	0%	49%	***	0%	31%	***
Cosmetology	0%	2%		1%	3%	
Domestic	0%	0%		1%	0%	
Electric	0%	5%		0%	4%*	
Mining	0%	1%		0%	1%	
Transport	0%	10%		1%	10%	***
Number of kinds of work before YiA	1.1	1.4	**	1.2	1.5	***
N	33	125		212	213	

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Income and household assets

Average self-reported income before YiA was 43.71 EGP (adjusted for inflation to be comparable to EGP 2017 currency values) and 41.88 EGP after⁶. This corresponds to roughly 2.48 USD before YiA and 2.38 USD after. These averages must be considered in the context of an overall increase in the percent of youth who reported working after YiA (87% after, compared to 32% before). In other words, the slight decrease in average daily income is likely explained by the fact that many more youth started working after YiA, many of whom earn less per day than the youth who were working prior to YiA.

Table 5. Youth's self-reported daily income, full sample

	Daily income before YiA		Daily income after YiA	
	EGP	USD	EGP	USD
Mean	43.72	2.48	41.88	2.38

⁵ The percentages reported in Table 5 correspond to the sample of youth who worked. The percentage of youth who owned a business before and after YiA reported on page 10 refers to the full sample of youth.

⁶ Income prior to YiA was converted to 2017 EGP using the formula $P_n = P(1+i)^n$; where P_n = inflation adjusted income, P = reported income prior to YiA, i = annual inflation rate (2013-2017, estimated at 10.6%), and n = amount of years that have passed since youth completed YiA (calculated by dividing the number of months out of YiA by 12).

Standard deviation	20.68	1.17	29.35	1.66
N	156	156	407	407

In order to calculate self-reported gains in income, we restrict our sample to include only those youth who worked both before and after YiA (n=141). For these youth, **the average gain in daily income is 6.60 EGP (0.37 USD)**, statistically significant at $p < 0.01$.

Table 6. Youth's self-reported daily income for youth who worked before and after YiA

	Daily income before YiA		Daily income after YiA		Gain in daily income**	
	EGP	USD	EGP	USD	EGP	USD
Mean	44.11	2.50	50.91	2.89	6.60	0.37
Standard deviation	21.11	1.20	27.37	1.55	26.12	1.48
N	141	141	141	141	141	141

The difference between daily income before and after YiA is significant at * $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Male youth reported significantly higher average daily income than female youth, both before and after YiA. Likewise, for the sub-sample of youth who worked before and after YiA (N=141) there is a positive association between sex (being a male) and the difference in daily income before and after YiA (gain in daily income; significant at $p < 0.10$). In sum, **although many more female youth reported working after YiA, the gap in income between male and female youth appears to have grown over time.**

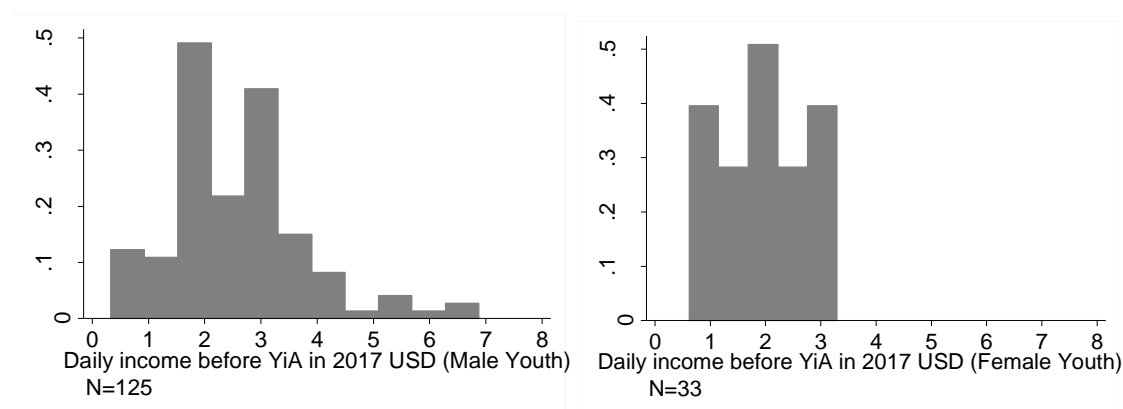
Table 7. Youth's self-reported daily income, by sex

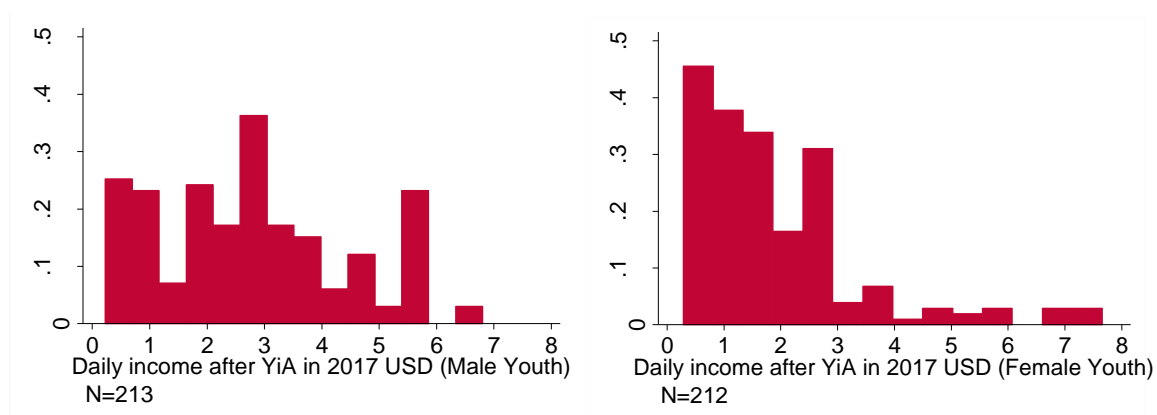
	Daily income before YiA			Daily income after YiA		
	Female youth	Male youth	p-value	Female youth	Male youth	p-value
EGP	34.39	46.22	**	33.75	49.44	*
USD	1.95	2.62		1.91	2.80	
N	33	125		212	213	

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

This gap is evident in looking at the distribution of daily income (Figure 3). A substantial number of male youth reported daily incomes greater than 4 USD—up to 6 and 7 USD per day—both before and after YiA, whereas female youths' reported daily income is centered around 1 to 3 USD, with a small group of female youth earning between 4 and 8 USD after YiA.

Figure 3. Distribution of reported daily income before and after YiA, by sex





It should be noted that the income data are limited in terms of precision and the extent to which they are representative of the population of youth who participated in YiA. This is because we rely on youth recall, without attempting to verify self-reported income. Likewise, the inflation adjustments are based on the average annual inflation rate, which means we cannot account for monthly/weekly fluctuations. Finally, we only have data on gains in income for about 30% of the sample, since only about 30% worked before YiA.

Considering these limitations, we also asked youth about household assets: access to land, tools, and animals as well as the types of household possessions they had before and after YiA. In order to assess changes in household wealth we created an index equal to the number of assets youth had before and after YiA (or 16 total items, see table 8). **On average youth had 9 of 16 household assets before YiA, and 10 after** (difference significant at $p < 0.001$). There is no difference in reported household wealth between male and female youth.

These data may provide a more reliable estimate of changes in youths' economic wellbeing, given that unlike the income data, this analysis draws from the full sample of 487 youth, and our estimates do not rely on inflation adjustments. However, the number of household possessions youth have before and after YiA is influenced by all members of the youth's household, not just the youth him or herself. To this end, changes in household wealth are likely related to factors external to YiA.

Table 8. Household assets before and after YiA

	Before YiA	After YiA
<u>Family owns or has access to...</u>		
Land	30%	33%
Animals	36%	45%
Tools or machines for business	17%	28%
<u>Household has...</u>		
Electricity	95%	99%
Water from faucet	90%	94%
Roof	90%	93%
Indoor toilet	97%	98%
Separate kitchen in house	79%	86%
Television	89%	94%
Satellite or cable TV	79%	86%
Land telephone	8%	15%
Mobile phone	78%	89%
Refrigerator	84%	88%

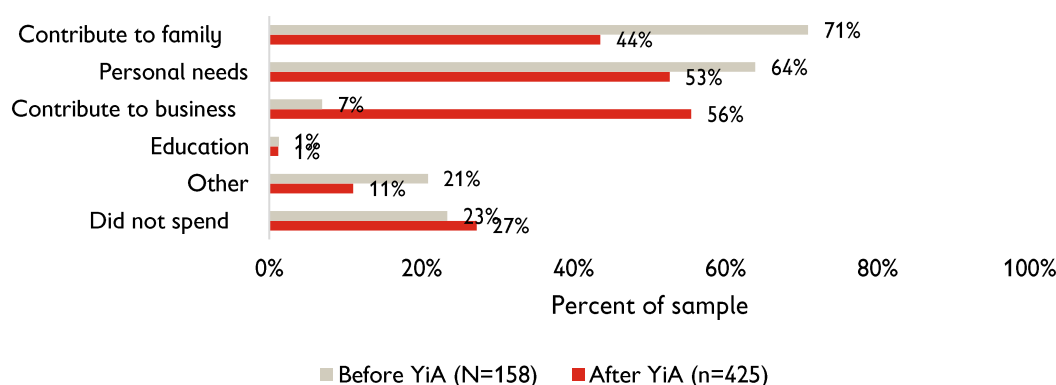
Bicycle	25%	26%
Motorcycle	19%	22%
Car, van or truck	7%	8%
Total of 16 household assets***	9.2	10.1
N	487	487

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Spending and saving

Youth who reported working were asked how they spend the money they earn, and all youth were asked about their savings practices. In terms of spending practices, a **greater percent of youth reported spending money on contributing to a business after YiA than before YiA**, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Youth spending practices



Before YiA, there was no difference in reported spending practices between male and female youth. This is likely explained at least in large part by the fact that only 33 female youth reported working before YiA. **After YiA, female youth were more likely than male youth to report spending money on their business**, which makes sense considering more female youth than male youth reported owning a business. **Meanwhile, male youth were more likely to report spending money on personal needs, contributing to family and other.**

Table 9. Youth spending practices after YiA, by sex

	Female Youth	Male Youth	p-value
Contribute to business	67%	45%	**
Personal needs	43%	62%	***
Contribute to family	31%	56%	***
Other	6%	16%	***
N	33	125	

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Savings practices increased significantly, both in terms of the percent of youth who reported saving and the amount saved. **70% reported saving after YiA, compared to only 35% who said they saved before YiA** ($p < 0.001$). In terms of the amount saved, the average savings increased from 193.86 inflation-adjusted EGP (11.00 USD) to 461 EGP (26.20 USD) ($p < 0.001$).

Table 10. Savings amount before and after YiA⁷

	Savings before YiA		Savings after YiA		Gain in savings***	
	EGP	USD	EGP	USD	EGP	USD
Mean	193.86	11.00	658.88	37.37	461.84	26.20
Standard deviation	724.04	41.06	1329.28	75.40	1275.62	72.36
N	430	430	449	449	406	406

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$.

Male youth had more than double the amount of savings that female youth had both before and after YiA, as shown in Table 11.

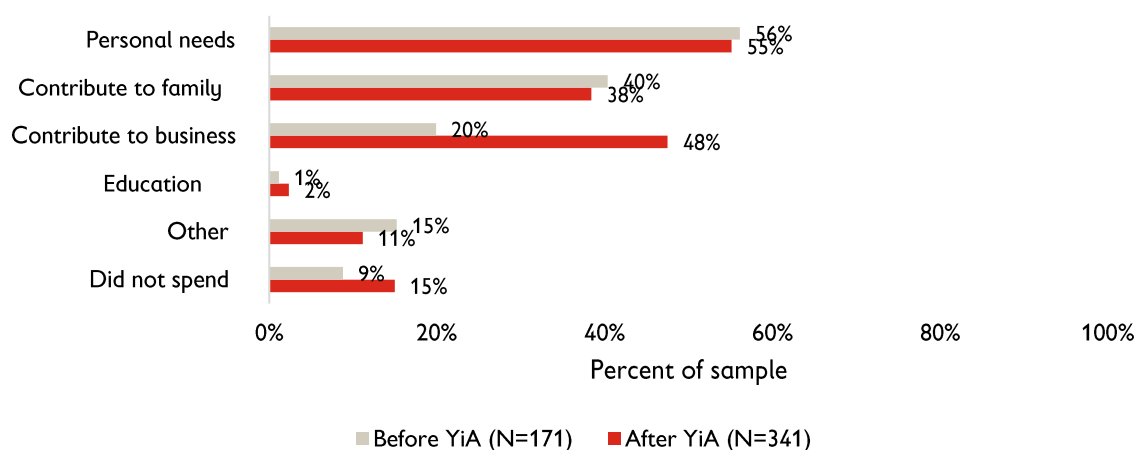
Table 11. Savings amount before and after YiA, by sex

	Before YiA			After YiA			Gain in savings		
	Female youth	Male youth	p-value	Female youth	Male youth	p-value	Female youth	Male youth	p-value
Amount in EGP	63.84	330.1	***	390.1	938.7	***	345.4	581.7	
Amount in USD	3.62	18.72		22.13	53.24		19.59	33	
N	220	210		229	220		206	200	

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Youth used the money they saved primarily to contribute to their own business (especially after YiA), to family and for personal needs. Before YiA there was no difference between how male and female youth spent the money they saved. After YiA, male youth were more likely than female youth to spend their savings on *contributing to their business* (27% versus 11%, difference significant at $p < 0.01$). This is interesting considering that female youth were more likely to report spending their income on contributing to their business (see Table 9).

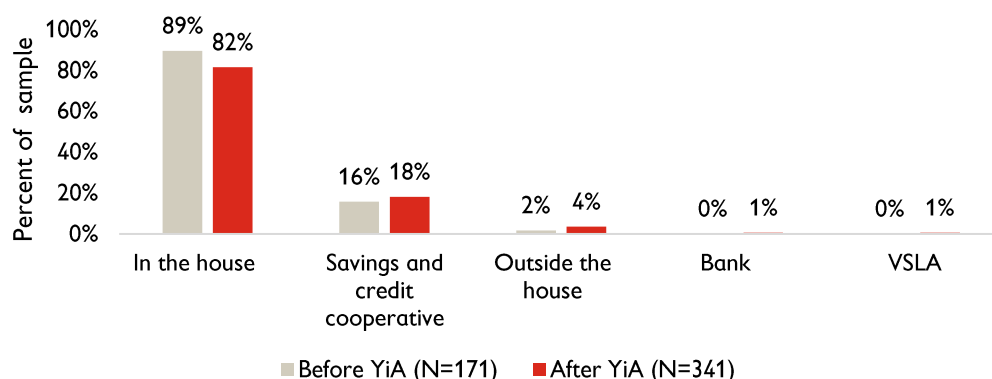
Figure 5. How youth spend saved money



⁷ The savings amount for youth who said they did not save is coded as 0. Before YiA, 57 of the youth who said they did save did not report a savings amount. This explains the sample size for this value (N=487 total youth in the sample -57=430). After YiA, 38 of the youth who said they did save did not report a savings amount (N=487-38=449).

The majority of youth who reported saving do so on their own (at home), although after YiA female youth were more likely than male youth to save at home (86% versus 76%, difference significant at $p < 0.05$). None of the youth in this sample reported saving at microfinance banks or through mobile phone credit, and very few saved in a bank or through a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA).

Figure 6. Where youth save



Support from family

Support from family is conceptualized in three ways: financial support, material support, and emotional support. **Only youth who reported working were asked about these three types of support from family members.**

In terms of **financial support**, **24% of youth reported receiving money from their family prior to YiA, compared to 52% after** (difference statistically significant at $p < 0.01$). After YiA, a greater percentage of female youth reported receiving financial support from their families (62% of female youth versus 43% of male youth, difference significant at $p < 0.001$).

There is no difference between male and female youth in the amount of financial support received. Given the limited number of youth (23) who provided information on the amount of financial support received from their family before and after YiA, we do not have a sufficient sample size to test the whether the difference in financial contributions from family before and after YiA is statistically significant⁸.

Table 12. Amount of financial support from families

	Amount family gave before YiA		Amount family gave after YiA	
	EGP	USD	EGP	USD
Mean	417.4	23.7	460.7	26.1
Standard deviation	979.2	55.5	653.5	37.1
N	38	38	222	222

Material support includes land, space within the house, tools and/or raw materials, and animals. We summed the responses to these items to form an index of the material support from families,

⁸ Youth were asked, “How much [money] did your family give you before YiA?” and “how much does your family give you now?” We interpret this as the total contribution from family before and after YiA, rather than recurring contributions. This is how youth qualitatively described the type of financial support they received from their family in focus group discussions – a one-time contribution to start a business, for example, rather than periodic payments.

defined as the number of types of material support from family (of 4). Rather than testing the statistical significance individually for each type of support, we used this index to test the significance of the difference in reported material support before and after YiA. This is in line with our interest in assessing the total change in support, and also important so as to avoid spurious correlations. **We find a significant increase in material support from families before and after YiA, from 0.5 to 1.3 types of support.**

Table 13. Material support from family

	Before YiA	After YiA
Family gave land	3%	5%
Family gave space	20%	72%
Family gave tools	16%	44%
Family gave animals	13%	12%
Number of types of material support from family (of 4)***	0.5	1.3
N	158	425

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Emotional support includes helping youth learn the skills needed for work, supporting youth's ideas for work, giving youth sufficient time to complete work, and helping to manage and run the youth's business. As in material support, we created an index of emotional support, defined as the number of types of emotional support received (of 4). Rather than testing the statistical significance individually for each type of support, we used this index to test the significance of the difference overall support before and after YiA. **Youth reported greater emotional support from their family after YiA, from 2.3 to 3.4 types of emotional support.**

Table 14. Emotional support from family

	Before YiA	After YiA
Family helped learn skills	54%	78%
Family supported ideas	64%	84%
Family gave time	79%	89%
Family helps manage	33%	87%
Number of types of emotional support from family (of 4)***	2.3	3.4
N	158	425

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

There were no important differences between female and male youth in reported material support from family. After YiA, there is a small difference in the types of emotional support reported, with female youth reporting more support, but these differences are small in magnitude, less than one type of support.

Support from mentors

Youth were also asked about support from a mentor. **Youth were much more likely to have a mentor after participating in YiA. 45% said that they had a mentor before YiA, compared to 64% who said they had a mentor now ($p < 0.01$).** There is no difference between male and female youth in terms of the percent who reported having a mentor, although female youth were more likely to have a female mentor, and male youth were more likely to have a male mentor. Both before and after YiA, about 30% of the female youth who had a mentor said their mentor was male, while 94% of males said their mentor was a male.

In terms of who the mentors are, most were relatives or friends, although after YiA a greater percent of youth said their mentor was a CBO/NGO worker, teacher or facilitator.

Table 15. Relationship between mentors and youth

	Before YiA	After YiA
Relative	69%	62%
Friend	25%	22%
Community member	4%	3%
CBO or NGO worker	0%	5%
Teacher or facilitator	0%	7%
Extension worker from MSE	0%	1%
N	224	314

We also asked youth about the types of support they received from mentors. Similar to the questions about family support, we created an index of mentor support, defined by the number of types of support from mentors (of 5). Again, rather than testing the statistical significance individually for each type of mentor support, we used this index to test the significance of the difference in reported mentor support before and after YiA. **On average youth reported about one additional type of support from their mentor after YiA, a small but statistically significant gain. Female youth reported greater gains in mentor support, but the magnitude of this difference is small (less than .5 types of support).**

Table 16. Support from mentor

	Before YiA	After YiA
Mentor shares information	65%	89%
Mentor provides emotional support	79%	95%
Mentor builds confidence	84%	95%
Mentor teaches skills	64%	87%
Youth can go to mentor for advice	77%	92%
Number of types of mentor support (of 5)***	3.7	4.6
N	224	314

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Autonomy in economic decision-making

We operationalize youth autonomy in economic decision making as the extent to which youth have a say in key decisions about how they earn money and what they do with their money.

Specifically, youth were asked: “Who decides (1) the kind of work you do? (2) How to spend the money you earn? (3) Where you save your money? And (4) How to spend the money you save?” Youth could respond “I decide” or “someone else decides.” Like the indices of support from family and mentors, we created an index of youth autonomy, ranging from zero (no say in economic decisions) to four (youth make all of the decisions).⁹ We used this index to test the significance of the overall change in autonomy before and after YiA, rather than testing each decision individually.

Youth reported having a say in about one decision prior to YiA, and two to three after YiA. This increase is explained in part by the finding that more youth are working and saving after having participated in YiA, and thus have more economic and livelihoods decisions to be making. Before YiA, male youth had more autonomy in economic decision making than female youth (males made 1-2 decisions, compared to less than 1 for females, significant at $p < 0.001$). **Female**

⁹ Youth who said they did not work or did not save were not asked the corresponding questions about who decides the kind of work they do, how to spend, or where to save and how to spend saved money. We include these youth in the index, with scores of 0 for these questions, based on the assumption that youth who do not work and do not save have little say in decisions about how to spend money or save.

youth reported greater gains in autonomy, and as a result there is no gap in autonomy between male and female youth after YiA.

Table 17. Youth decision making

Youth decides:	Before YiA	After YiA
...the kind of work s/he should do	24%	71%
...how to spend money	24%	71%
...where to save	29%	61%
...how to spend saved money	29%	59%
Number of decisions made by youth (of 4)***	1.1	2.6
N	487	487

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

Entrepreneurial skills

To assess self-reported entrepreneurial skills, youth were asked if they knew how to do a series of eight activities (see table 17). In general youth had a positive perspective of the skills they gained through participation in YiA. **When thinking about their skills prior to YiA, less than half said they knew how to create a business plan, identify customers, plan for seasons, make price decisions, identify where to get the funds to start a business, or develop and track budgets.** Conversely, **after YiA, for each skill we asked about, 88% or more feel competent.**

We created an index of entrepreneurial skills before and after YiA, equal to the number of skills youth reported knowing how to do (of 8). As in the questions about support from family and mentors, and autonomy, we tested the significance of reported changes in skills using the index, rather than testing each skill individually. **On average youth reported having 1 to 2 entrepreneurial skills, compared to about 7 after YiA** (difference statistically significant at $p < 0.001$).

Table 18. Youth skills

Percent who respond “agree or strongly agree” when asked if they know how to...	Before YiA	After YiA
Create a business plan	17%	90%
Identify customers and competitors for a business	14%	88%
Plan a business for different seasons	18%	89%
Decide the best price at which to sell an item	29%	92%
Identify places to get money to start or grow a business	18%	87%
Budget money for your business and personal life	15%	93%
Identify how much money you need to start a business	21%	93%
Track how much money you spend and on what	29%	91%
Number of entrepreneurial skills (of 8)***	1.6	7.2
N	487	487

* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$

There is a positive and statistically significant association between being a female and reported gains in skills ($p < 0.01$), but in practical terms this difference is small—a difference of less than one skill.

RQ2: To what extent are the changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes that youth reported explained by demographic characteristics and the amount of time that has passed since completing YiA,?

To answer Research Question 2, we fit a series of multiple regression models to estimate the relation between sociodemographic characteristics, months since completing YiA, and reported changes in socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes. Table 15 describes the outcomes, and Appendix C presents the fitted estimates.

In the first set of models, we estimate the association between youths' sociodemographic characteristics and the changes they reported by modelling these changes as a linear function of *age in years*¹⁰, *sex*, *years of education prior to YiA*, and *household assets prior to YiA*.¹¹

Table 19. Socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes used to explore RQ2

Outcome	Description	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	N
Change in daily income	Difference in self-reported daily income before and after YiA, in 2017 EGP	6.6	26.1	-60.1	75.7	141
Change in household assets	Difference in self-reported household assets before and after YiA, of 16	0.8	1.6	-3.0	9.0	487
Change in savings amount	Difference in self-reported savings before and after YiA, in 2017 EGP	461.84	1,274.62	-7,613.09	12,731.58	406
Change in material support from family	Difference in number of types of material support received from family before and after YiA, of 4	0.7	1.2	-3.0	4.0	143
Change in emotional support from family	Difference in number of types of emotional support received from family before and after YiA, of 4	0.8	1.3	-3.0	4.0	143
Change in mentor support	Difference in number of types of support received from mentors before and after YiA, of 5	0.9	1.6	-5.0	5.0	193
Change in autonomy in economic and livelihoods decisions	Difference in number of decisions about work and how to spend and save money that youth make before and after YiA, of 4	1.6	1.7	-4.0	4.0	487

¹⁰ Because younger youth received a slightly different program than their older peers, we need to control for this distinction in our analysis. Since youth age is highly correlated with whether or not youth attended a younger or older cohort, we use age as a proxy in all our models for "younger and older target cohort". By controlling for age, we can combine the age cohorts, resulting in a larger sample size and more confidence in the findings.

¹¹ Household assets is the standardized sum of the total number of household items that youth reported having prior to YiA (of 16 items total). Change in household assets is also an outcome (dependent) variable. For this regression model, we do not include household assets prior to YiA as an independent variable.

Change in entrepreneurial skills	Difference in number of entrepreneurial skills youth say they have before and after YiA, of 8	5.6	2.7	-2.0	8.0	487
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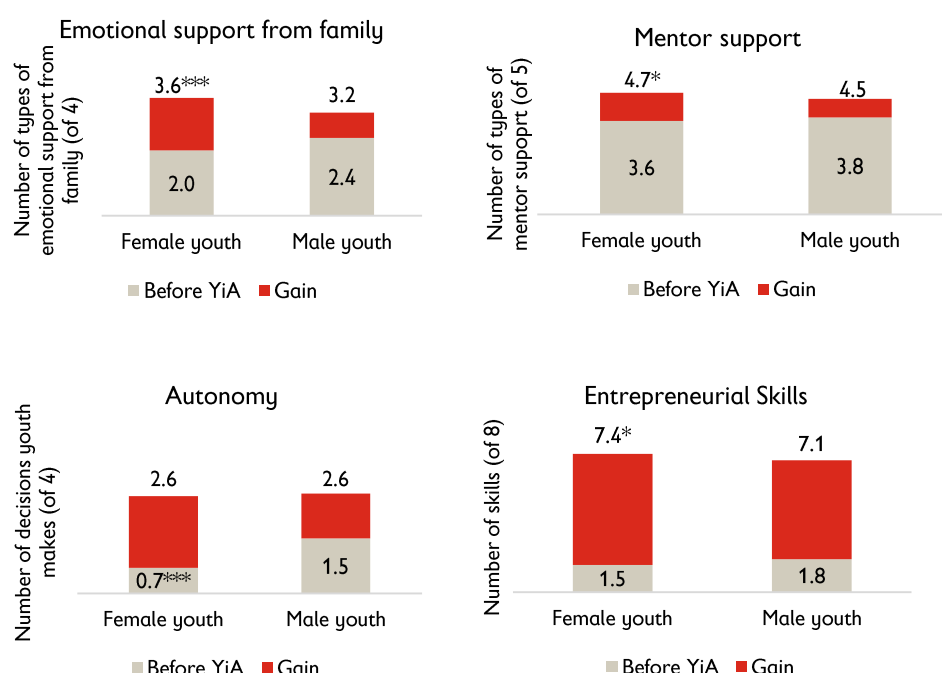
The strongest predictor of changes in outcomes was sex. Holding age, years of education, and household assets consistent, among the sample of 141 youth who reported daily income before and after YiA, **male youth reported gains of about 10 EGP greater than female youth** (about 0.60 USD). **Male youth also reported greater gains in savings**, by about 216 EGP (12 USD), holding age, education and household assets constant.

Female youth on the other hand reported greater gains in emotional support from family, support from mentor, autonomy in socioeconomic and livelihoods decision making, and entrepreneurial skills. These differences are small in magnitude. Holding age, years of education and household assets constant, female youth reported a gain of about 1-2 more types of emotional support than male youth, about .5 more types of mentor support, and less than one more decision and skill.

The equity implications of these findings are illustrated in Figure 7 below. For emotional support from families, mentor support, and entrepreneurial skills there was no gap before YiA, but after YiA, females reported more support and more skills than male youth. In the case of autonomy, female youth started at a disadvantage, but after YiA male and female youth reported equal degrees of autonomy, thanks to the fact that female youth made greater gains.¹²

¹² There is a statistically significant association between age in years and gain in skills, with younger youth making greater gains than older youth, and household assets and gain in skills, youth from households with more wealth assets reported slightly greater gains in entrepreneurial skills. However, the magnitude of these relations is almost negligible (see Appendix C for details).

Figure 7. Equity implications of differential gains in emotional support, mentor support, autonomy, and skills



* $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$. Values in the bottom of the bars are the before YiA averages for female and male youth. Values above the bars are the averages after YiA.

Next, we estimated the association between the amount of time in months that has passed since youth completed YiA and the changes they report, controlling for the above sociodemographic characteristics (age, sex, education and household wealth). **We find no relation between months after completing YiA and reported changes in outcomes.** Overall, the amount of time that youth have been out of YiA does not seem to affect how they report socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes before and after participating in YiA.

However, in this sample the amount of time since completing YiA ranges from 10 to 23 months. Thus, it is possible that as time goes on there is a relation between time since completing YiA and reported changes in outcomes that we cannot observe in the present study.

Limitations of this Study

This study relies on youth's perception of their socioeconomic and livelihood status at two different time points: before they participated in YiA and currently (nine or more months after completing YiA). In this sense, **we rely on retrospectively reported information on youth's perceptions** of their socioeconomic and livelihood status at the two different time points. We did not attempt to validate any of the youth's responses through other data sources.

This poses a number of limitations. First, it can be hard to remember the specifics of things like mentor interactions, family support, or even daily income from months or years prior. This limits the precision of our findings. Second, youth may have an incentive to report larger gains than they actually experienced in order to signal their interest in participating in future types of livelihood programs. On the other hand, this incentive could work in the opposite direction, youth may be

inclined to report smaller gains to signal that they are in need of continued support from programs like YiA.

We also did not have a comparison or control group in this Tracer Study. The data we collected for this study come from youth who have participated in YiA, so we have no way of knowing what youths' outcomes would have been in the absence of YiA. We cannot know for sure that the gains youth reported are due to their participation in YiA. **Youth are generally expected to develop more skills, assets, and income as they mature, regardless of intervention, so this limitation is critical to acknowledge.**

Because of these three reasons—retrospective study, perception-based responses, and no comparison/control group—there is a limited amount that we can say about YiA *causing* changes in youth outcomes. Rather, **our findings represent the role of YiA in youth socioeconomic and livelihood development from the perspective of YiA youth themselves.**

Youth's reported changes in daily income is particularly subject to imprecise measurement. We have data on income prior to YiA from less than half the sample, so our ability to detect a relation between gains in income and sociodemographic characteristics, months since completing YiA, and YiA pathway chosen is limited. Likewise, we do not have detailed information about the specific week/month that youth had in mind when they responded, so we cannot adjust for fluctuations in currency or in youths' wages. We are assuming that they reported on their average daily income in the weeks/months immediately prior to YiA.

Discussion

Several months after completing YiA, **we find marked improvements in socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes.** A greater percent of youth reported working, owning a business, and saving after YiA. Self-reported gains in income were small but significant (6.6 EGP, or 0.37 USD), and youth also reported a significant gain in household assets (wealth) before and after YiA. In terms of the enabling environment, youth reported increases in the types of material and emotional support received from their family. They were more likely to have a mentor after YiA, and received greater support from mentors. Finally, youth reported greater autonomy in socioeconomic and livelihood decisions, and there are large gains in self-reported entrepreneurial skills. Encouragingly, these results are consistent regardless of the amount of time that has passed since youth completed YiA.

Our findings suggest that male and female youth have experienced different changes in their socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes. YiA seems to have supported female youth primarily in entering the work force—female youth were much less likely to work before YiA than male youth, but after completing YiA this gap has closed. Most of the female youth achieved this by starting their own business: 97% of female youth reported owning a business after YiA, compared to 81% of male youth. Holding age, education, and household wealth constant, female youth also reported greater gains in emotional support from their family, support from their mentors, autonomy, and entrepreneurial skills.

Meanwhile, male youth saw greater gains in daily income and reported much greater gains in savings. After YiA, these are the only outcomes where a clear gap remains between male and female youth. Male youth reported earnings about 50% greater than females and have saved more than twice as much as female youth.

Appendix A: Sociodemographic information of the sample

Table 20. Distribution of the sample according to district and village

	Number of youth	Percent of total sample
AS/ Arab EL-Atawla	13	3%
AS/ Arab EL-Ateyat	7	1%
AS/ Bani Aleg	7	1%
AS/ Bani Ghaleb	10	2%
AS/ Bani Mohamed	6	1%
AS/ Bani Shqer	14	3%
AS/ Bosra	28	6%
AS/ Dewena	32	7%
AS/ EL-Atamna	3	1%
AS/ EL-Gaab	1	0%
AS/ EL-Hawatka	48	10%
AS/ EL-Qadadeh	7	1%
AS/ EL-Zaraby	3	1%
AS/ Ezbet Mahboub	6	1%
AS/ Kom EL-Mansoura	15	3%
AS/ Manflout	3	1%
AS/ Nazlet Baqour	16	3%
AS/ Nazzah Qara	5	1%
AS/ Sehreg	6	1%
SH/ Bahr EL-Baqar 4	20	4%
SH/ Bahr EL-Baqr 15	18	4%
SH/ Bahr EL-Baqr 2	38	8%
SH/ Bahr EL-Baqr 3	27	6%
SH/ Bahr EL-Baqr 5	11	2%
SH/ Kafr EL-Hosr	58	12%
SH/Bahr Baqr 11	18	4%
SH/Banadf - Kafr EL-Geraya	11	2%
SH/Deyarb	19	4%
SH/EL-Aslouguy	37	8%
Total	487	100%

Table 21. Basic sociodemographic information, by sex

	Female youth	Male youth	p-value
Age in years (average)	17.11	17.51	**
Percent married before YiA	2%	1%	
Percent with child(ren) before YiA	0%	0%	
Percent married after YiA	8%	1%	***
Percent with child(ren) after YiA	4%	0%	**

~p<0.10. * p <0.05. ** p <0.01. *** p <0.001.

Appendix B: Internal consistency reliabilities of composite indicators of socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes

Table 22. Scale reliability coefficient (Alpha) for socioeconomic and livelihood outcome indices

	Before YiA	After YiA
Material support from family	0.63	0.49
Emotional support from family	0.69	0.78
Support from mentor	0.77	0.71
Autonomy in economic and livelihoods decisions	0.73	0.70
Entrepreneurial skills	0.90	0.89

Appendix C: Fitted estimates of equity analysis predicting self-reported change in socioeconomic and livelihoods outcomes

Fitted estimates in tables 23 and 24 are modelled as linear regression functions, with robust standard errors.

Table 23. Fitted estimates of the association between sociodemographic characteristics and reported changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes

	<u>Daily income (EGP)</u>		<u>Household assets</u>		<u>Savings (EGP)</u>		<u>Material support from family</u>		<u>Emotional support from family</u>		<u>Mentor support</u>		<u>Autonomy</u>		<u>Entrepreneurial skills</u>	
	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD
Age in years	0.23 -1.78	0.01	0.05 -0.05	0.03	87.23* -41.56	0.07	-0.03 -0.07	-0.03	-0.01 -0.07	-0.01	-0.07 -0.08	-0.05	-0.03 -0.05	-0.02	-0.26** -0.08	-0.1
Sex (male)	9.91* -4.42	0.38	-0.05 -0.15	-0.03	215.83~ -119.48	0.17	-0.22 -0.24	-0.19	-0.62* -0.29	-0.48	-0.52* -0.23	-0.34	-0.70*** -0.15	-0.41	-0.61* -0.25	-0.23
Years of education	0.31 -1.08	0.01	0 -0.03	0	20.4 -20.64	0.02	0 -0.04	0	-0.04 -0.05	-0.03	-0.05 -0.05	-0.03	0.03 -0.03	0.02	0.02 -0.05	0.01
SES	-4.27 -2.68	-0.16			23.81 -62.87	0.02	0.04 -0.12	0.04	0.16 -0.12	0.12	0.19 -0.12	0.12	-0.1 -0.08	-0.06	0.36** -0.12	0.13
Constant	-6.74 -29.49	-0.26	0.06 -0.82	0.04	-1237.88~ -714.69	-0.96	1.37 -1.18	1.18	1.72 -1.23	1.32	2.65~ -1.37	1.71	2.36** -0.89	1.38	10.38*** -1.4	3.83
R ²	0.033		0.00		0.02		0.01		0.04		0.05		0.05		0.05	
N	135		474		396		137		137		191		474		474	

~ $p < 0.10$. * $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$.

Table 24. Fitted estimates of the association between months since completing YiA and reported changes in socioeconomic and livelihood outcomes, controlling for sociodemographic characteristics

	<u>Daily income (EGP)</u>		<u>Household assets</u>		<u>Savings (EGP)</u>		<u>Material support from family</u>		<u>Emotional support from family</u>		<u>Mentor support</u>		<u>Autonomy</u>		<u>Entrepreneurial skills</u>	
	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD	Beta (S.E.)	Effect in SD
Age in years	0.25 -1.79	0.01	0.04 -0.05	0.03	87.48* (41.54)	0.07	-0.03 -0.07	-0.03	-0.01 -0.08	-0.01	-0.08 -0.08	-0.05	-0.03 -0.05	-0.02	-0.26** -0.08	-0.1
Sex (male)	10.28* -4.33	0.39	-0.06 -0.15	-0.04	222.02~ (121.44)	0.17	-0.3 -0.24	-0.26	-0.65* -0.29	-0.5	-0.50* -0.23	-0.33	-0.68*** -0.16	-0.4	-0.60* -0.25	-0.22
Years of education	0.25 -1.09	0.01	0.01 -0.03	0.01	17.10 (20.98)	0.01	0.01 -0.05	0.01	-0.04 -0.06	-0.03	-0.03 -0.05	-0.02	0.02 -0.03	0.01	0.02 -0.05	0.01
SES	-4.45 -2.71	-0.17			19.51 (63.90)	0.02	0.09 -0.12	0.07	0.18 -0.12	0.14	0.2 -0.13	0.13	-0.11 -0.08	-0.06	0.35** -0.12	0.13
Months since completing YiA	-0.16 -0.52	-0.01	0.03~ -0.02	0.02	-10.74 (13.30)	-0.01	0.03 -0.02	0.03	0.01 -0.03	0.01	0.02 -0.03	0.02	-0.03~ -0.02	-0.02	-0.03 -0.03	-0.01
Constant	-4.64 -31.52	-0.18	-0.46 -0.89	-0.28	-1058.55 (693.61)	-0.82	0.94 -1.2	0.8	1.57 -1.24	1.21	2.29 -1.41	1.48	2.79** -0.93	1.64	10.77*** -1.54	3.97
R2	0.03		0.01		0.0249		0.03		0.04		0.06		0.06		0.05	
N	135		474		396		137		137		191		474		474	

~ $p < 0.10$. * $p < 0.05$. ** $p < 0.01$. *** $p < 0.001$.