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Community based monitoring and public service delivery

Impact, and the role of information, deliberation, and jurisdictional tier

responsible for AAEA poster: Caroline Miehe, LICOS, KU Leuven, caroline.miehe@kuleuven.be

other authors: Nassul Kabunga (Uganda Bureau of Statistics)

Tewodaj Mogues (International Monetary Fund, Expenditure Policy Division, Fiscal Affairs Department)

Bjorn Van Campenhout (Development Strategy and Governance Division, IFPRI & LICOS, KU Leuven)

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Community based monitoring and public service delivery Impact, and the role of information, deliberation, and jurisdictional tier

Nassul Kabunga, Caroline Miehe, Tewodaj Mogues, Bjorn Van Campenhout

1. Introduction

Barazas:

- community based monitoring accountability fora
- to improve governance & public service delivery in **Uganda**
- information: government officials inform citizens related to budgeting, spending, planning
- deliberation: citizens can engage with government officials



Contributions:

1. evaluation of impact on public service delivery
 - general
 - impact of information/ deliberation
 - impact of jurisdictional tier
2. multi-sector approach, enabling cross sectoral information sharing, planning, cooperation, re-allocation of resources
3. impact evaluation of a government initiative/ policy intervention
 - initiative of the president of Uganda
 - implementation by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

2. Research questions

1. What is the impact of sub-county level barazas on public service delivery?
2. What is the relative importance of the information/ deliberation component?
3. What is the impact of district level barazas, compared to the impact of sub-county level barazas?

3. Methods

- nested/ two-step randomization design
- 2 by 2 factorial design
- ANCOVA model, controlling for region, baseline outcome, including all interaction terms of the factorial design

4. Data

baseline (2015): 12 545 households, 400 officials

OPM faced various **implementation challenges**

- end-line data collection after partial roll-out
- strategies to reduce potential selection bias
- 1. balance between planned-to-treat-but-not-treated sub-counties & control sub-counties
- 2. selection of control sub-counties for end-line
- 3. updated power calculations

end-line (2020): 6 700 households, 260 officials

5. Confirmatory analysis results

following our pre-analysis plan, using an overall index & sector indices (compositions of outcomes)

- no significant impact of barazas on public service delivery
- exception: sub-county level barazas → better service delivery in the agricultural sector

However, the results of the confirmatory analysis hide significant impacts on individual outcomes & mask significant heterogeneity.

6. Exploratory analysis results

zooming in on individual outcomes

agriculture:

sub-county level barazas	→ better access to extension
deliberation component	→ more farmer cooperatives/ groups

infrastructure:

sub-county level barazas	→ better access to drinking water (+25%)
deliberation component	→ more community participation

health:

sub-county level barazas	→ more public Village Health Team meetings
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education:

sub-county level barazas	→ better school infrastructure
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citizen interaction with civil servants:

information component	→ more interaction
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contributions to public goods:

information component	→ more cash contributions
district level barazas	→ less in-kind contributions
district level barazas	→ more cash contributions

7. Heterogeneity in treatment effects

1. impact of barazas implemented >1,5 years before end-line:
 - sub-county level barazas → worse infrastructure
 - district level barazas → worse service delivery in health sector
2. impact of barazas in sub-counties with high elite capture:
 - information component → better service delivery in health sector
 - better overall service delivery
3. impact of barazas in sub-counties with high ethnic fractionalization:
 - sub-county & district level barazas & information & deliberation component → better infrastructure
 - sub-county & district level barazas → better service delivery in health sector
 - better overall service delivery
4. impact of barazas on remote households:
 - district level barazas → better service delivery in agricultural sector

8. Conclusion

barazas address various issues in heterogeneous settings

→ treatments are unlikely to be standardized

→ impact of barazas may be highly localized & context specific

→ estimation of average treatment effects is complicated