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

KU LEUVEN

1. Background

Barazas are community forums organized by the government of Uganda:

- information: government officials inform citizens about budgeting, spending, planning etc.
- deliberation: citizens can engage with government officials

→ Citizens could hold the government accountable.
→ Barazas could improve public service delivery.

A rigorous impact evaluation was needed:

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. Should barazas be organized at the sub-county level or at the district level? (jurisdictional tier)

2. Data

baseline (2015): 12 545 households, 400 officials

The government faced 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. matching of treated sub-counties to similar control sub-counties
3. updated minimal detectable effects

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

3. Results: confirmatory analysis

- nested/ two-step randomization design
- following a pre-analysis plan
- using an overall index & sector indices

We find no significant impact of barazas on public service delivery, except for in the agricultural sector.
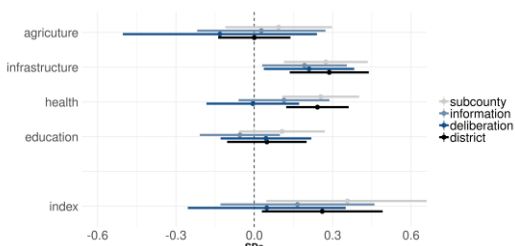
5. Results: heterogeneity analysis

The results of the confirmatory analysis mask significant heterogeneity:

Barazas are more effective for households
- in remote areas.

Barazas are more effective for sub-counties
- with <1.5 years between treatment & end-line
- with high elite capture
- with high ethnic fractionalization:

4. Results: exploratory analysis

The results of the confirmatory analysis hide significant impacts on individual outcomes:

	mean	s.-c. baraza	info.	deli.	district baraza
Agriculture					
obtained seed from govt.	0.121	0.051+	0.004	0.056+	-0.005
	(0.326)	(0.024)	(0.025)	(0.043)	(0.015)
extension visit at home	0.178	0.056+	0.037	0.036	-0.027
	(0.383)	(0.018)	(0.030)	(0.048)	(0.014)
farmer associations/ groups in village	0.403	0.060+	0.040	0.087*	-0.032
	(0.491)	(0.030)	(0.038)	(0.041)	(0.027)
Infrastructure					
waiting time at water source	3.198	-0.286*	-0.006	-0.287+	-0.032
	(1.638)	(0.152)	(0.117)	(0.193)	(0.160)
Education					
school has electricity	0.338	0.165**	-0.040	-0.017	0.035
	(0.473)	(0.049)	(0.042)	(0.049)	(0.038)
school has water facility	0.703	0.106*	-0.023	0.026	0.073
	(0.457)	(0.041)	(0.048)	(0.050)	(0.050)

6. Conclusion

Barazas address diverse issues in a heterogeneous setting.
→ treatments are unlikely to be standardized
→ large scope of impacts: highly localized & context specific
→ difficult to capture ATE: impact is diluted if outcomes are averaged