

Experiments in Post-Conflict and Enterprise Development

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Two Themes

1. What is the effect of conflict on household welfare?
 - Who are the winners and losers?
 - How long do the effects last?

2. How can societies recover from conflict?
 - Enterprise development (by necessity sometimes)
 - Institution development
 - Infrastructure recovery

Past work

IDPs in Uganda

- Models to test: Poverty trap vs. neoclassical growth
- Method: Discontinuity Design
- Results: Two years after displacement, people have recovered some, but they are still significantly behind those not displaced. The effect is greatest on those with the most to lose.

Current work

NUSAF

- Models to test:
 - Behavioral use of cash grants
 - Returns to business
 - Why not more businesses? Capital constraints, impatience or ability?
 - Models of aggression
- Method: Experiment
- Results: Good use of money, high returns, capital constraints and reduced aggression. More to come.

Social Reintegration After Conflict

- Model to test: Quality of reintegrate after conflict
- Method: Trust games between ex-combatants and civilians
- Results: Forthcoming

Financial Literacy

- Models to test:
 - Are people constrained for savings by formal accounts or impatience?
 - Can financial literacy be taught?
 - Does access to these lead to better welfare?
- Method: Experiments, cross-cutting designs
- Results: Forthcoming

Future work

Transparency and Accountability

- Models to test:
 - What is the best method to reduce corruption?
 - Community participation
 - Threat of greater auditing
 - Easier reporting
 - How does past conflict interact with quality of governance?
- Method: Experiments, cross-cutting designs

Training Entrepreneurs

- Models to test:
 - Can entrepreneurship be taught?
 - If so, what is the right intensity of training?
 - What constrains business: business skills, training or assets?
 - What makes an entrepreneur?
- Method: Experiments, cross-cutting designs

Business constraints to growth

- Models to test:
 - Can ability be easily determined, and does that determine success?
 - What method of relieving credit constraints assures money is used in business (i.e. alleviates low patience and family pressure)?
 - Cash
 - In-kind
 - Loans
 - Business training
- Method: Experiments, cross-cutting designs

Thank You