

Effect of Foundational state design processes, transitional political processes, and election support intervention on economic security

Evidence shows that rebelocracy and PESA interventions have no effect on improving economic security.

Geographic Focus: Latin America and Caribbean

Effect: No effect (g=0.0)

Confidence in study findings: Low (2 studies with 2 effect sizes)

Short summary

The cell examines diverse interventions addressing economic security. One explores rebelocracy, where non-state armed actors (NSAAs) engage in civilian governance, enabling better coping with weather shocks through public goods provision. Another evaluates India's PESA Act, which improves literacy and employment in Scheduled Tribes areas and reduces insurgency participation. Both interventions aimed to improve economic resilience, employment, and local governance but showed no effect on economic security outcomes.

Long summary

The intervention

The studies in this cell examined two interventions aimed at improving economic security. The first, **rebelocracy**, involves non-state armed actors (NSAAs) engaging in civilian governance under a social contract with local communities, providing public goods and stabilizing local governance. The second intervention is India's **Panchayats Extension to the Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act of 1996**, which introduces decentralized local governments in Schedule Five areas, primarily inhabited by Scheduled Tribes (Adivasi), to improve literacy, employment, and reduce insurgency participation.

How the intervention is expected to affect this outcome

The intervention showed that the rebelocracy is expected to improve households' ability to cope with negative weather shocks by providing public goods, which reduces reliance on survival migration. The PESA Act is intended to enhance literacy and employment opportunities in Schedule Five areas, which may reduce incentives to participate in insurgency activities. However, these areas are historically socio-economically disadvantaged, which may limit the interventions' impact on economic security outcomes.

The evidence base

The cell contains 5 studies: 3 impact evaluations designed as quasi-experimental studies and 2 qualitative studies.

The qualitative studies were conducted in Mozambique (Adedokun (2019)); and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Kosovo, Palestine and Timor-Leste (Richmond 2011).

The impact evaluation studies are from Côte d'Ivoire (1), Colombia (1), and India (1). The effects were estimated for 2 impact evaluations (Ibanez 2019 and Nandwani 2019). The effects couldn't be extracted from Mvukiyehe (2009) due to lack of enough data for calculations.

Evidence findings

The evidence from the two impact evaluations consistently shows **no measurable effect** of either rebelocracy or PESA interventions on economic security outcomes. Households'

economic resilience, local governance quality, and employment outcomes were not significantly affected. Overall, the findings are consistent across studies, but confidence is low due to the small number of impact evaluations.

Ibanez (2019) studies the legacies of wartime institutions, measured as rebelocracy, on the ability of households to cope with negative income shocks. Rebelocracy is the social order established by non-state armed actors in the communities they control. By providing public goods and a predictable framework within which to operate, rebelocracy may generate incentives for households to expand production and accumulate wealth, placing them in a higher income trajectory than households living in war zones amid violence and chaos. The study was conducted in Colombia. The study is designed as a quasi-experimental study design and used a longitudinal household dataset from the Colombian Longitudinal Survey across 33 communities. The study showed that the drought shock harms the value of agricultural production and aggregate consumption. The impact is sizeable: an increase of one standard deviation (SD) in the drought shock decreases the value of annual agricultural production by 0.35SD and aggregate consumption by 0.24SD. The impact of the drought shock for households living in communities with stronger rebelocracy levels is lower. The impact is large: one additional standard deviation in the rainfall and drought shock increases the probability of migration by 0.15 and 0.20 percentage points (pp), respectively. The study was rated as low confidence due to quasi-experimental study design, partial definition of intervention, and no mention of attrition in the study.

Mvukiyehe (2009) evaluates the micro-level impacts of the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) on security, economic recovery, and political reintegration after the 2002-2007 civil war. The analysis used survey data from 1,459 civilians and ex-combatants, conflict event data, and socioeconomic indicators. It employed a mixed-methods approach, including panel methods for time-variant data and cross-sectional methods for static data, alongside hierarchical small-area estimation techniques to address sparsity in community-level observations. Sampling weights and clustering techniques were applied to ensure representativeness and robustness in the estimates. The findings show that UNOCI deployments had minimal impact on reducing victimization rates, as these had already declined significantly before their arrival. However, there was limited evidence that UNOCI-monitored zones deterred renewed hostilities. Households in areas with peacekeeping deployments experienced fewer economic losses and somewhat better recovery, although these findings are preliminary and require further causal analysis. UNOCI's electoral sensitization activities were associated with increased confidence in the fairness of upcoming elections. However, its presence did not significantly influence the return of local political leaders or broader political reintegration. The study is rated low confidence due to the non-experimental study design and attrition not being reported.

Nandwani (2019) investigates if devolution of political power in conflict-affected areas can reduce violence. This is addressed by assessing the impact of a local government institution, introduced in the Adivasi districts in 1996, on Maoist insurgency in India. The local councils aimed to address Adivasi grievances by recognizing their traditional lifestyle and land, forests, and water rights, thereby reducing their incentive to participate in an insurgency. The study is designed as a quasi-experimental study design. The study used district-level data on Maoist insurgency for 17 Indian states from the Global Terrorism database. A total of 14,036 observations were included in the analysis. There is a significant ($p < 0.05$) and positive impact of PESA on the increase in insurgency after its implementation. The introduction of local self-government in Schedule five areas increased the likelihood of insurgency by almost 8–12 % points. Given the average likelihood of insurgency is 14%, there was a considerable increase (50–75%) in insurgency in schedule five districts. The study is rated as low confidence due to quasi-experimental study design, partial definition of intervention and outcome, and no mention of attrition in the study.

Confidence assessment

Overall low confidence as there are only 3 studies in the cell and all studies are rated as low confidence. There is consistency in findings across both studies.

Other outcomes in the study:

Violence and atrocity prevention / Nature and scale of violence or atrocities

Human security / Educational security