

Effect of sanctions on willingness to participate or help

Sanctions, such as the checkpoint easement in the West Bank, has harmful effect on political disengagement resulting in increased willingness to participate in elections.

Geographic region: Middle East and North Africa (West Gaza)

Effect size: Harmful effect ($g=-0.218$)

Confidence in study findings: Medium (1 study with 1 effect size)

Short summary

Sanctions, such as the checkpoint easement in the West Bank under the Jenin First Initiative, has harmful effect on political disengagement. However, it has influenced willingness to participate or help by reducing nonviolent repression. The intervention fostered greater political engagement, with residents in eased areas showing increased willingness to participate in civic activities.

Long summary

The intervention

Sanctions, such as the checkpoint easement in the West Bank, was implemented to reduce nonviolent repression and its associated grievances. The intervention targeted movement restrictions, aiming to improve mobility and reduce the daily hardships experienced by Palestinians. Implemented in 2009 as a pilot program, the measures focused on areas near Za'atara, with neighboring checkpoints like Wadi Nar serving as control sites with no changes.

How the intervention is expected to affect this outcome

By reducing the perceived humiliation and hardships of restrictions in movement, the intervention aimed to foster a sense of empowerment and agency among residents. This was expected to translate into increased willingness to participate in civic and political processes, including elections, and greater support for peaceful means of conflict resolution.

The evidence base

The cell contains 1 impact evaluation study set in the West Bank (Middle East).

Evidence findings

The intervention led to an decrease in willingness to participate or help in areas affected by the eased restrictions. Residents near the Za'atara checkpoint exhibited higher levels of political engagement, including increased likelihood of participating in elections.

Included studies

Longo, Canetti, and Hite-Rubin (2014) examine the implications of checkpoints and the relaxation of travel restrictions in West Bank. This intervention was called the Jenin First Initiative, spearheaded by a Tony Blair-led Quartet, composed by the United States, the United Nations, the European Union, and Russia, and was implemented in 2009. The plan was to open economic corridors for Palestinian traffic and trade. The study used a natural experiment to analyze the effects of the 2009 Israel decision to ease travel restrictions in the West Bank on Palestinians, with a difference-in-difference estimation model to see the difference before and after the intervention, particularly in Za'atara (treatment) and Wadi Nar (control). The study revealed that the easing of travel restrictions resulted to greater willingness to participate in elections among Residents near Za'atara, highlighting a move toward political engagement as

a viable means for change. This study is rated medium confidence as it is a non-experimental study.

Confidence assessment

Overall low: This cell is rated low considering that there is only one study which falls under it.

Other outcomes in the study:

Violence and atrocity prevention / social norms regarding violence and atrocities

Social cohesion / feelings of trust and acceptance of diversity