

# International NGOs and Social Cohesion after Civil War: Survey Evidence from Liberia \*

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## Abstract

This paper investigates the effects of programming by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) on measures of social cohesion in postwar Liberia. Using rainfall as an instrumental variable for INGO access to communities and two-stage least square estimations (2SLS), I find that INGO interventions have positive effects on self-reported measures of collective action; on indicators of social integration and reconciliation and on the presence of institutions to manage and resolve local disputes. However, I do not find evidence for INGO effects on measures of interpersonal trust or on the levels of contribution to a community fund in a public good game. Empirical results also suggest INGO effects on some outcome measures may be heterogeneous. I discuss the theoretical and practical implication of these results.

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