



Reintegrating and Employing High Risk Youth in Liberia: Lessons from a randomized evaluation of a Landmine Action an agricultural training program for ex-combatants

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Country	Liberia
Organizing Theme	Voice and Agency, Economic Opportunities and Access to Assets
Status	Completed
Intervention Category	Training
Sector	Social Development
Abstract	None
Gender Connection	Gender Focused Intervention
Gender Outcomes	Labor force participation, participation or voice in the community
IE Design	Randomized Control Trial
Intervention	The international NGO Landmine Action, runs an intensive agricultural training program targeting ex-combatants and other high-risk youth. The NGO recruited ex-combatants and offered them several months of skills training and psychological counseling along with a start-up package to give youth a peaceful and legal alternative to illicit resource extraction. The program has 6 main components, coursework in agricultural skills, basic literacy training, psycho-social counseling, meals lodging and clothing, facilitation of re-entry into land, a package of tools and supplies worth about \$200.
Intervention Period	2009-2011; the program includes 3-4 months of coursework in vocational training
Sample population	The sample is comprised of 1330 ex-combatants or high-risk youth. 790 were offered the program and 254 declined or could not be found.
Comparison conditions	The study compares individuals who are treated by the program to individuals who received no treatment.
Unit of analysis	Individual Level
Evaluation Period	2009-2011; follow up was 12-16 months after program completion
Results	The program has a large and significant impact on engagement in agricultural activities. The program had little impact on illicit activities like mining, but those who participated in the program spent fewer hours engaged in illicit activities. The program led to no significant changes in crime or aggression, but the participants are less likely to be interested in or mobilized into violence after the election in Cote d'Ivoire.
Primary study limitations	This is only a medium term assessment so some effects may take longer to show up. Much of the outcomes rely on self-reported data.



Funding Source	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, Yale University, Spanish Impact Evaluation Fund, Italian Children and Youth Trust Fund
Reference(s)	Blattman, C., Annan, J. (2011) Reintegrating and Employing High Risk Youth In Liberia: Lessons from a randomized evaluation of a Landmine Action an agricultural training program for ex-combatants.
Link to Studies	http://www.p2zen.org/uploads/1/0/0/7/10071632/undpreintegrationliberia.pdf
Microdata	http://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/293 http://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/293