

# In whom we trust more? Heterogeneous effects of government assistance on trust in local officials in the Philippines

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主催

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【参加料】無料 【使用言語】発表・資料ともに英語



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概要

Given the instrumental value of trust to development, knowing what builds trust in government officials, including local authorities, is relevant to policy, especially in decentralized developing countries. Using two rounds of a nationally representative survey on local governance in the Philippines, we examine for the possible effects of the receipt of public assistance, which can be in cash or in kind, on the probability of trust in governors, mayors, vice mayors and barangays (village) captains. To control for possible bias in the selection of aid recipients, we estimate treatment effects models to determine if the trust impact of assistances differentiated by source also vary across local officials. We find that any public assistance (from national or local government) or those local governments alone (provincial or municipal government) has positive and significant effects on the probability of trust in mayors, but the same have no effects on the probability of trust in governors, vice mayors or barangay captains. Further tests reveal that same types of assistance also have positive effects on trust in local legislative councils. We attribute the heterogeneous effects on the officials' relative reach and resources: compared to governors, mayors are more accessible to their constituents, though control less government resources; compared to vice mayors or barangay captains who are likewise easily reached, mayors however have greater fiscal authority and means. More than other officials, mayors attract and provide for people who seek help or favors. The same assistance provided to them however also appear to promote trust in a governance institution (councils).



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