Impact of Boko Haram attacks on children health in Cameroon: A double difference analysis

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Abstract

Violent conflicts may enduring health repercussions, but measuring systematically such impacts is empirically tough. Using Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) which control for children Health before and after conflicts started , we analyses direct impacts of exposure to Boko Haram conflict on children's under 5 health in the Far North region of Cameroon. Double-difference (difference-in-difference) method is used to evaluate impact of conflicts on children health. We use an update version of "ACLED" data base to control for events of violent conflicts. While to capture children health we use height, weight, diarrhea, fever, heath care indicators. Our regressions suggest that there is no difference in term of Weight, Height -for-age z-scores from children living in the Far North of Cameroon) than those living non-conflicts regions of the country. We considered and Ordinary Least Square (OLS) and Instrumental Variable methods combined with fixed effects for robustness check of our estimations. Results remain consistent after a battery of robustness controls. This results can be explain due to the shortest of data availability ending in 2014 and at that time the conflict was only just started in far north.

Keywords: *children health, violent Conflicts, impact evaluation method, Cameroon .*