



Impact Evaluation of Synergeia's Barangay Justice System Program

in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao



Ma. Isabel (Isa) Fernandez

Associate Research Manager





Introduction

Innovations for Poverty Action



Create Stronger Evidence

Conduct impact evaluations

Research



Share Evidence Strategically

Disseminate and co-create evidence

Policy



Equip Decision-makers to Use Evidence

Consulting, training and embedded learning labs

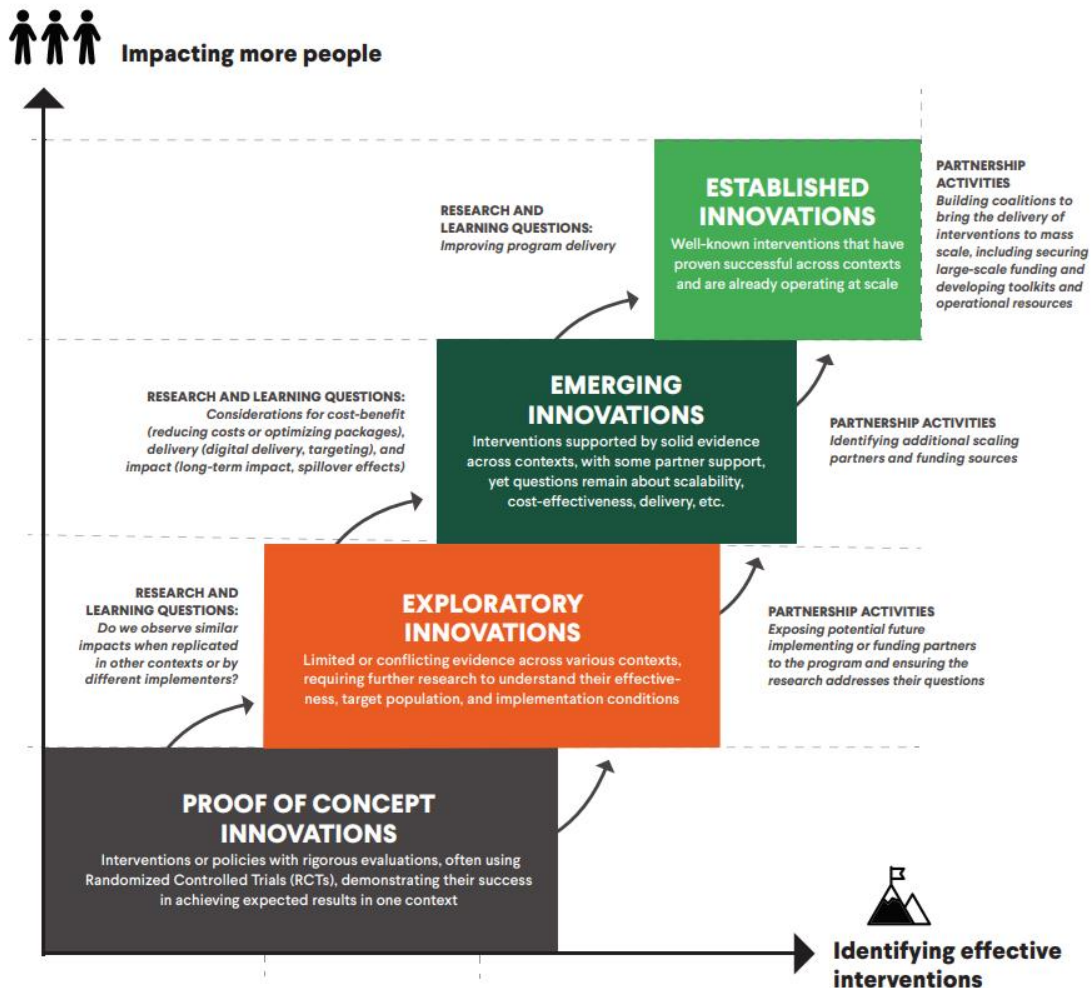
*Right-Fit evidence
Embedded Labs*

IPA works with



From proof of concept to impact at scale

Equipped with hundreds of evaluations in our portfolio, IPA is uniquely positioned to identify and share the most promising innovations, and to move them along the path to scale



Our Partners

- **Government** | DepEd, DSWD, Supreme Court of the Philippines, DOLE, DAR, BSP, NNC, PIDS, NEDA, LBP, UP, PCIC
- **International** | ADB, UNDP, DFAT, World Bank, ILO, 3ie, Millennium Challenge Corporation
- **NGOs** | Youth Impact, Habitat for Humanity, International Care Ministries



On Peace and Justice



With the **Supreme Court**, IPA evaluated **3 judicial reforms** that aimed to **improve access to swift and fair justice**. Now, IPA and the Supreme Court jointly worked on establishing the **SC Data Hub** to support further **evidence-based** policies and reforms.

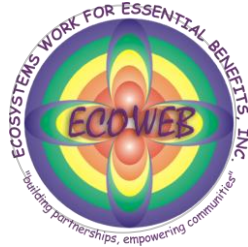


With **NEDA** and **UNDP**, IPA conducted a process evaluation of the ***Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA)*** program, which has been the Philippine government's **flagship development framework for conflict-affected areas**.



Displacement is at an all-time high and is projected to climb in the coming decades. IPA's **Livelihood Displacement Initiative** supports evidence generation on how to **best respond to displacement** and **strengthen outcomes** for displaced and host communities.

Local Organizations for PCVE



Tailored M&E Support

1. Introduction to Theory of Change
2. Data Use Planning
3. Efficient and High-Quality Data Management
 - Instrument design and measurement
 - Managing qualitative and quantitative research
 - From data audits and cleaning to analysis and visualization
 - Automating data work
 - Technical programming/coding skills in ODK, Python and Stata
 - Strengthening data flow systems towards a monitoring dashboard



Impact Evaluation of Synergeia's Barangay Justice System Program

Background

A model for **community-based justice**

- The essence of BJS is a **peaceful and harmonious resolution of conflicts** within the barangay
- **through the intervention of barangay leader and other respected members of the barangay**



*Preliminary focus group discussions facilitated by IPA
with BJS lupon members in Buldon*

Composition of the BJS

- Lupong Tagapamayapa:
 - Lupon chairman; typically the Punong Barangay
 - 10-20 Lupon members appointed by the Punong Barangay; typically representing the sitios
 - Secretary of the Lupon; typically the barangay secretary
- Pangkat ng Tagapagkasundo
 - Conciliation panel composed of three chosen Lupon members to help with disputes brought to the Lupon

Project Partners



Program Overview



Training of barangay leaders and staff on the procedures of BJS and mediation skills



Provision of barangay justice system best practices toolkit



Awareness campaigns and townhall meetings with communities



Research Questions



Did the program increase **knowledge and skills** necessary to operate the BJS?



Did the program increase **community awareness** about the BJS's services?



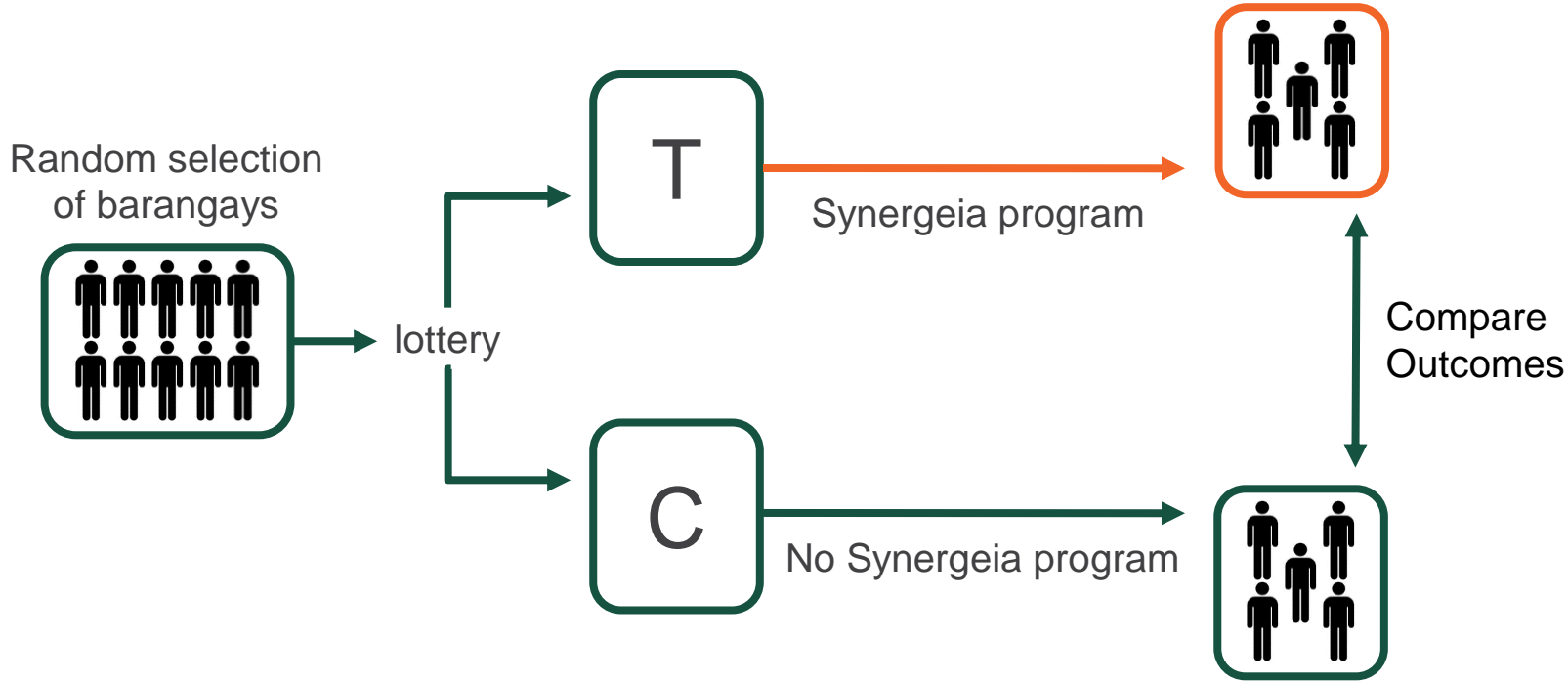
Did the program increase **usage** of the BJS services **by the community**?



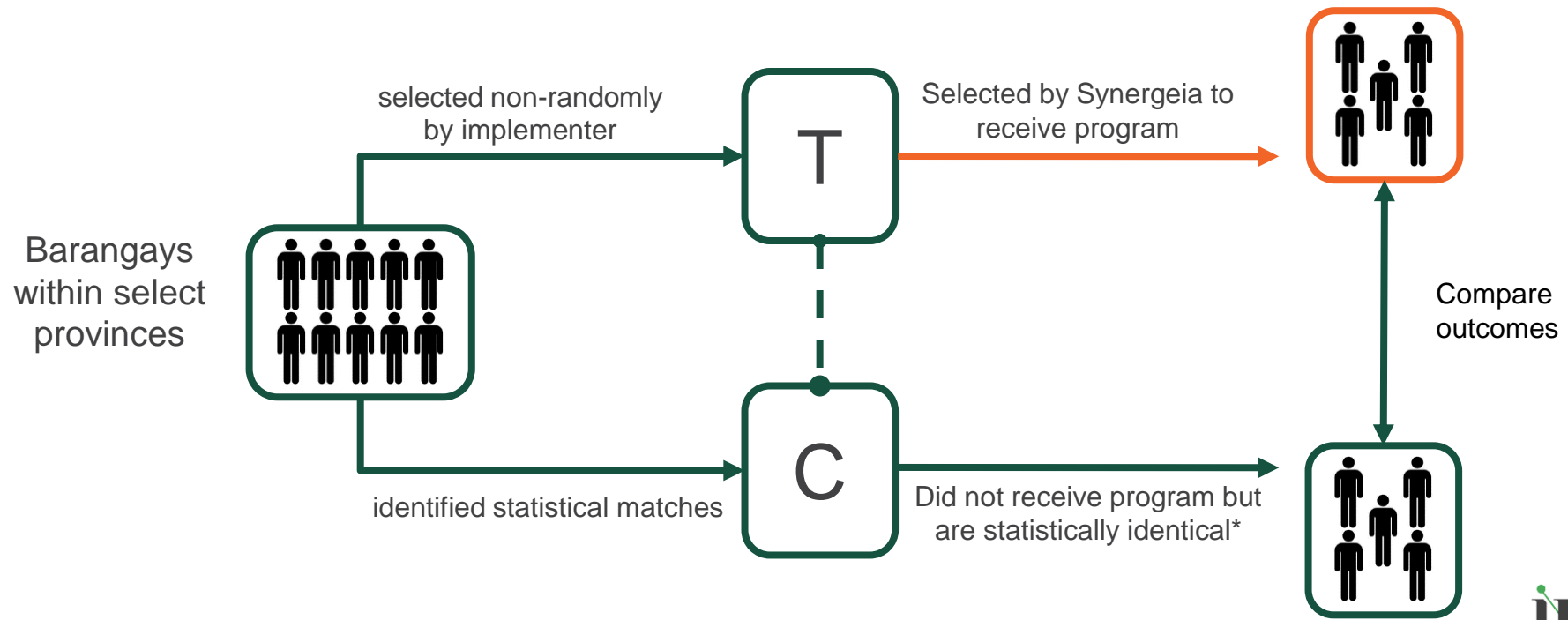
Did the program lead to improvements in **community trust and perception**?

Design: Randomised Control Trial

(not feasible in this case)

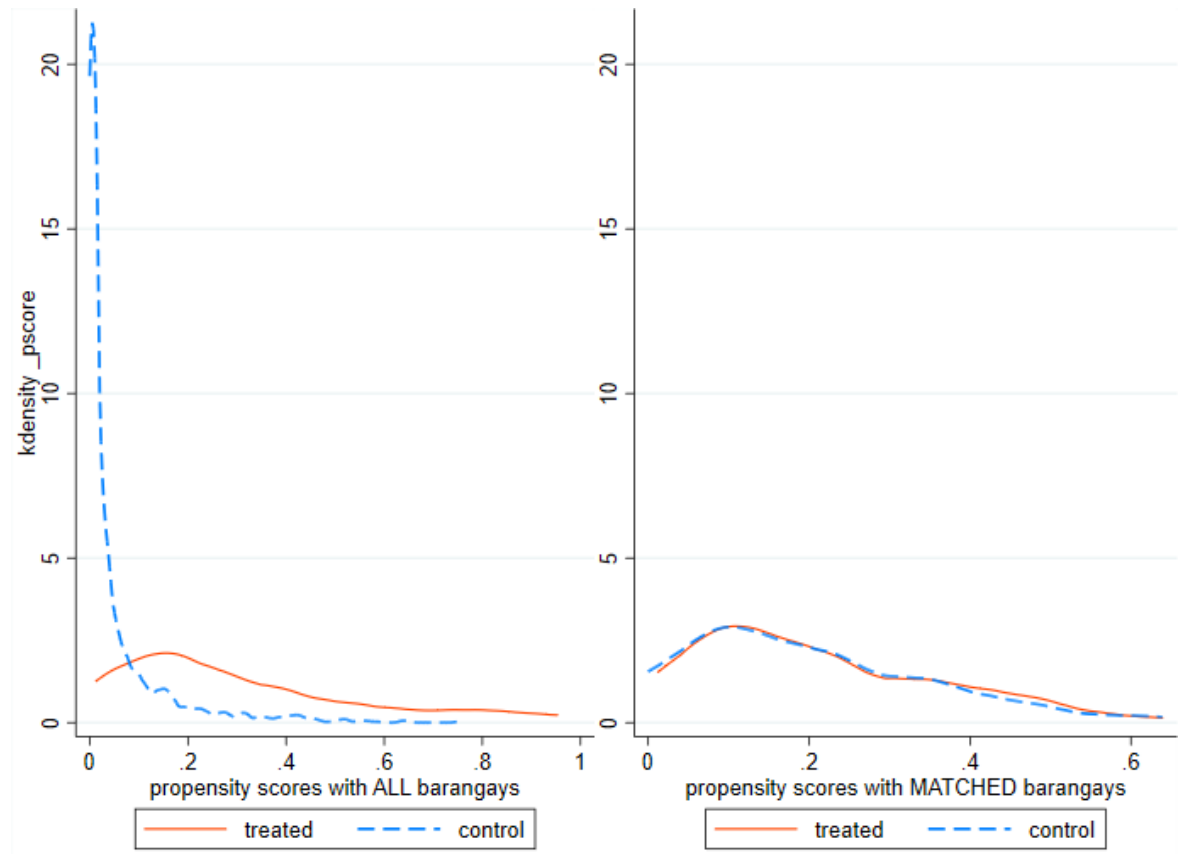


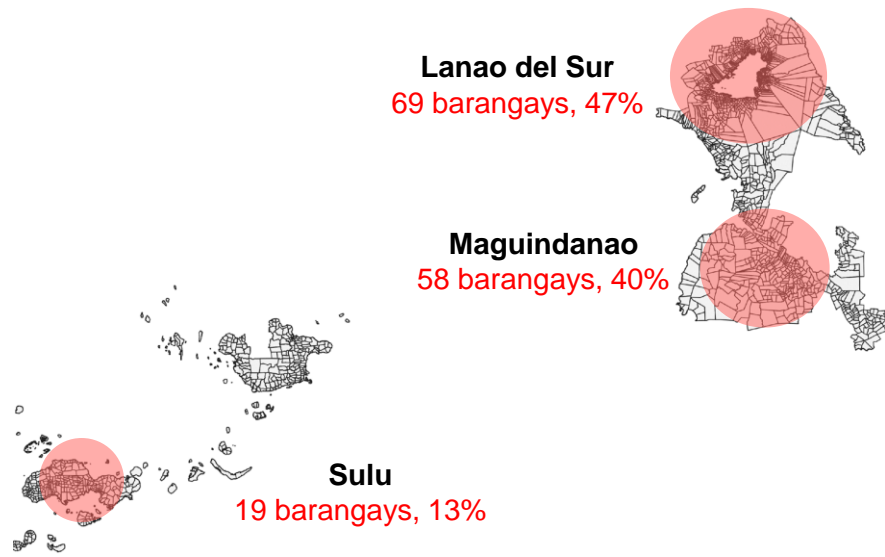
Design: Propensity Score Matching (PSM)



Through **propensity score matching**, **balance** between the treatment and control barangays in the sample **is significantly better.**

Figure 4. Balance test results before and after matching





Sampling design



146 barangays (97.3% success rate)



3 lupon members
1 barangay secretary
5 random households



3 Provinces

- Sulu: Jolo
- Lanao del Sur: Piagapo and Kapatagan
- Maguindanao: Buldon and Datu Paglas

Instrument design

	Lupon Survey (1.5 HR)	Household survey (1 HR)	Admin survey (30 MIN)
Target respondent	Lupon chairperson (barangay captain) and two other Lupon members	Five randomly selected households per barangay	Barangay / Lupon secretary
Modules	Socio-economic status		
	Perception of conflicts in the community		Personal Information
	Basic rules of barangay justice system	Community networks	Caseload in the barangay and resolution status
	Vignette – walking through the process of handling a fictional case	Use and perception of governmental services	
		Awareness and knowledge of barangay justice system	

Measuring outcomes using vignettes

VIGNETTES

- Presents a series of hypothetical yet realistic scenarios to **explore people's attitudes, beliefs, knowledge or likely behaviors**
- Concrete and realistic nature of the vignette contextualizes the scenario so that it makes the situation familiar and interesting to the respondent, **prompting reflective responses**

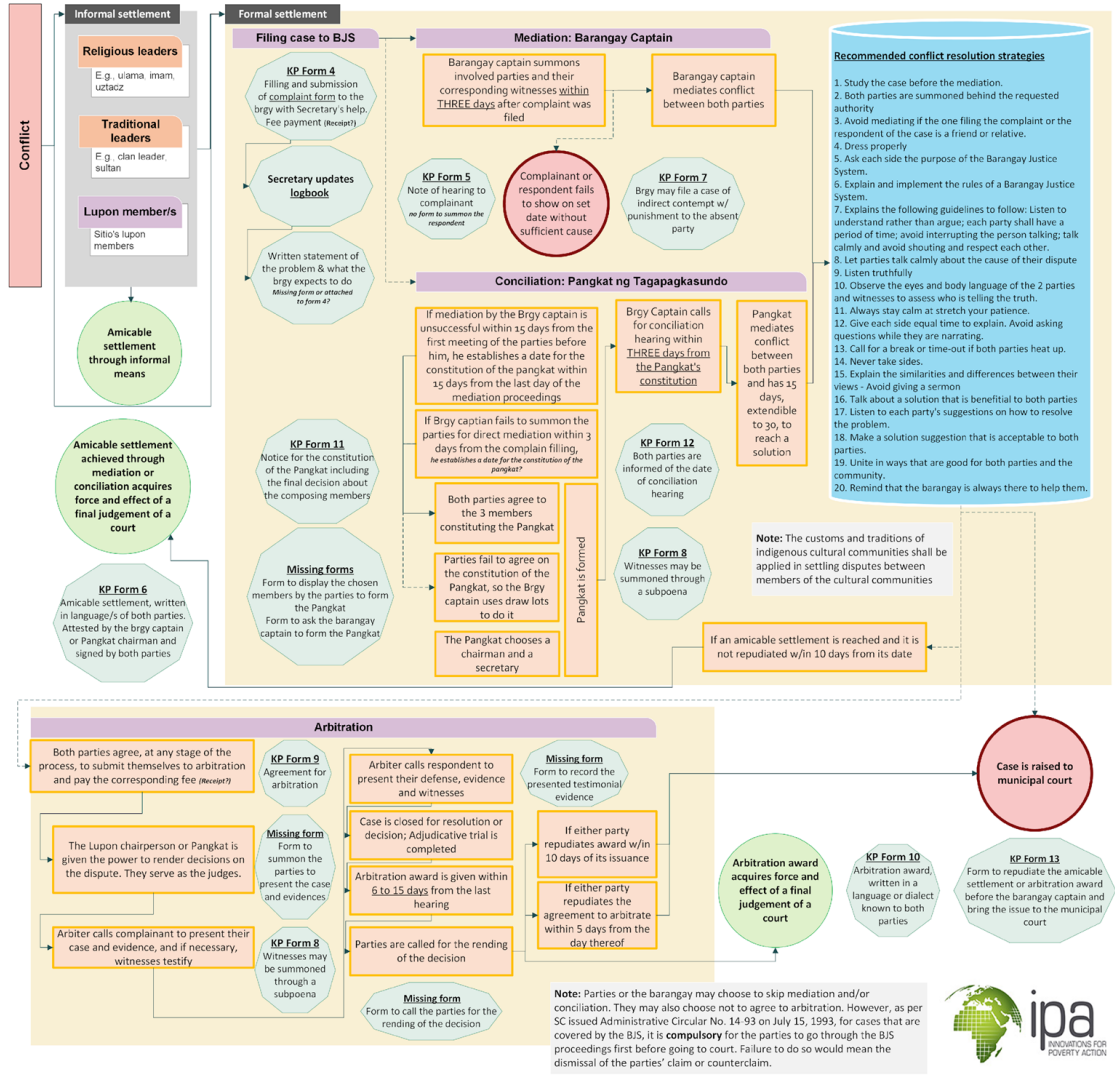
Snapshot of a vignette

Imagine that there is a farmer, Ahmed, who lives in Brgy. A. Ahmed has worked on the same plot of land since he began farming 40 years ago. It was the same plot of land that his father worked on. Ahmed grows corn – part of his harvest is given to a distributor that brings it to the market and part is turned into animal feed. Ahmed, his family and even his extended family rely on the farm as their main source of income.

However, one day, Karim, who studied and worked in South Cotabato, comes back to settle in Brgy. A. He suddenly demands that Ahmed pay him rent for the use of the plot of land, claiming that his grandfather was the rightful owner. Ahmed, who has worked in that plot of land rent-free his entire life, refuses.

This starts a conflict between Ahmed and Karim.

Flowchart on the Barangay Justice System processes



Item response analysis

Employed two-parameter item response logistic model

$$P(K_{qijt} = 1 | \theta, a, b) = \frac{e^{a_q(\theta_{ijt} - b_s)}}{1 + e^{a_q(\theta_{ijt} - b_s)}}$$

- reduces the dimension of the variables in the case vignette to scores for each major procedure
- allows estimation of each item's level of difficulty, and its ability to discriminate individuals across ability levels (Mahmud, 2017)



Estimating the
impact of
Synergeia's
interventions

Results

After controlling for differences and testing the sensitivity of the results, we see robust **positive and significant differences** in knowledge of lupon members and community awareness for treated sites



Increase in **knowledge and skills** necessary to operate the BJS



Increase in **community awareness** about the BJS's services



Increase in **usage** of the BJS services **by the community**



Improvement in **community trust and perception** on the BJS

Effect of BJS training on standardized vignette scores by domain



	(2)	(3)
General BJS function and roles	0.117** (0.110)	0.151** (0.123)
Strategies and procedures for mediation and conciliation	0.268*** (0.102)	0.320** (0.093)
Amicable settlement documentation and enforcement	0.140* (0.118)	0.264** (0.125)
Arbitration and raising a case to court	0.025 (0.096)	-0.023 (0.105)
With controls	Individual	Both
N	426	418

*Note: *, **, *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5% and 1% alpha levels, respectively. The statistical significance refers to a one-sided test assessing whether the estimated impact is greater than zero based on Rosenbaum's (2002) randomization inference. Vignette scores are standardized relative to the mean and standard deviation of scores by lupon members in non-treatment barangays.*

Effect of townhalls on BJS on household awareness



	(2)	(3)
Awareness of BJS	0.051 (0.193)	0.065 (0.076)
Awareness of Lupon	0.049 (0.334)	0.058* (0.317)
Knows head of BJS	0.063 (0.113)	0.072 (0.083)
Knows Lupon member	-0.052 (0.294)	-0.055 (0.287)
Answered all questions on BJS jurisdiction correctly	0.018*** (0.147)	0.020*** (0.069)
With controls	Individual	Both
N	727	727

Note: *, **, *** denote statistical significance at the 10%, 5% and 1% alpha levels, respectively. The statistical significance refers to a one-sided test assessing whether the estimated impact is greater than zero based on Rosenbaum's (2002) randomization inference. Vignette scores are standardized relative to the mean and standard deviation of scores by lupon members in non-treatment barangays.



Recommendations to improve the BJS Program

Program recommendations



Targeting knowledge gaps

Design more tailored BJS training or remedial sessions to address Lupon members' knowledge gaps



Leveraging on practical sessions

Incorporate more practical sessions, such as role playing, during the training proper.



Increasing activity frequency

Increase intervention dosage (e.g., # townhall meetings, information campaign) to boost program.



Conducting further research

Conduct another impact assessment to assess longer-term outcomes such as utilization and perception changes.

Next Steps



Share Evidence Strategically

From evidence to policy discussions

- Engage key stakeholders (govt agencies, donors, service providers) to **disseminate evidence** and support them in applying evidence
- Build momentum towards **further research** on strengthening community-based justice for promoting peace

A scenic coastal landscape featuring a wooden hut with a thatched roof on the left, a fence in the foreground, and mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The text "Maraming salamat po!" is overlaid in the center.

Maraming salamat po!



Contact Us

www.poverty-action.org

mifernandez@poverty-action.org