

Disaggregated analyses of aid effectiveness

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Although the last half-century has seen significant advances in many dimensions of development, differences in the standard of living between citizens in the rich and poor countries are still enormous. The question of if and how foreign aid can help promote economic development in poor countries is a subject of controversy. While proponents of aid argue that it helps countries build institutions, deliver key services like healthcare and education and combat poverty, critics maintain that foreign aid may undermine local institutions and thus that it may even be harmful for development. Therefore there is increased demand for detailed knowledge about aid effectiveness. This panel invites analyses undertaking disaggregated aid effectiveness analysis so as to shed light on sector-, donor- and within-country location-specific aid effectiveness and how it can be improved. Questions to be discussed concern what works where, when and why. We welcome papers about the extent to which aid to different sectors, from different donors and to different types of localities manage to meet their intended objectives? Do these aid flows differ in terms of unintended spillover effects? What factors explain differences in aid impacts?