

## Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on Successful Demobilization

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### Abstract:

The purpose of this study article is to investigate the effect that conditional cash transfers (CCTs) have on the effective demobilisation of fighters in areas that have been impacted by violence. It investigates the function of CCTs as a tool for policymakers to use in encouraging people to disassociate themselves from armed organisations and return to civilian life. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the efficiency of CCTs in fostering long-term peace and stability via an examination of various case studies, current literature, and empirical data. In addition to this, it covers the difficulties and factors that should be considered while implementing CCT programmes in post-conflict contexts. According to the results, CCTs have the potential to have a major beneficial influence on successful demobilisation, contributing to the overarching objectives of conflict resolution and peacebuilding provided they are developed and implemented appropriately.

**Key words:** Conditional, Cash, Transfers, Demobilization.

### Introduction

Many parts of the globe have been afflicted by conflict and bloodshed, which has resulted in the loss of property, the infliction of pain, and the displacement of people. The process of demobilising fighters, particularly those who were active in armed organisations, is an essential step in the direction of securing long-term peace and stability in these places that have been devastated by violence. In recent years, policymakers and international organisations have increasingly turned to conditional cash transfers (CCTs) as a novel approach to incentivize combatants to lay down their arms and reintegrate into civilian life. CCTs are a form of monetary reward that is contingent on the recipient meeting certain conditions.<sup>1</sup> This study paper explores the multidimensional subject of the influence that CCTs have on the successful demobilisation of fighters and looks at the issue from a variety of angles. It investigates the assumption that providing individuals with financial incentives, based upon the individual's commitment to demobilisation and compliance with specific criteria, might serve as a potent accelerator for peacebuilding initiatives. This study aims to shed light on the effectiveness of CCTs as a tool for promoting successful demobilisation and, by extension, contributing to broader conflict resolution and peacebuilding goals by examining a variety of case studies, empirical data, and existing literature. This will be accomplished by examining each of these sources in order to shed light on the effectiveness of CCTs.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jean-Pierre Olivier De Sardan and Emmanuelle Piccoli (eds.), *Cash Transfers in Context: An Anthropological Perspective*, 15-21 (Berghahn Books, New York, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Crost, Joseph H. Felter and Patrick B. Johnston, "Conditional cash transfers, civil conflict and insurgent influence: Experimental evidence from the Philippines," 118 *Journal of Development Economics* 171–82 (2016).

## The Mechanisms of Conditional Cash Transfers

Conditional cash transfers, often known as CCTs, are a novel and forward-thinking method of rewarding fighters to demobilise and reintegrate themselves into civilian life. The operation of these programmes is dependent on a set of core processes, which are necessary to understand in order to comprehend the effect that they have on effective demobilisation.

- **Financial Incentives:** The provision of monetary benefits to fighters in return for their assurance that they would demobilise is the fundamental principle behind CCTs. These incentives often take the shape of regular financial stipends or grants, and they provide those who may have depended on armed organisations for money with instant economic respite.
- **Conditionalities:** CCTs, or conditional cash transfers, are characterised by the presence of stipulations that recipients are expected to fulfil in order to maintain their status as beneficiaries of financial assistance. These obligations may come in a broad variety of forms, but they often consist of things like attending rehabilitation or reintegration programmes, getting children enrolled in school, getting access to healthcare services, or taking part in vocational training programmes.
- **Social Services and Human Capital Development:** CCT programmes not only provide short-term monetary assistance, but also place an emphasis on the development of human capital over the longer term. They address some of the underlying problems that are contributing to the conflict and violence in the region by tying cash transfers to conditions such as education and healthcare.
- **Behavioral Change:** The purpose of conditionalities is to encourage a shift in conduct on the part of fighters. They urge those who get them to participate in more constructive pursuits, such as education, training, or seeking medical attention, rather than engaging in violent behaviour.
- **Community Involvement:** In CCT initiatives, community members from all walks of life are often brought together to participate in the demobilisation process. Support and trust from the local community are essential to the success of these initiatives, which aim to ease former fighters' transition back into civilian life and lower the likelihood that they would be re-recruited by violent extremist organisations.

## Review of literature

**Fitzgerald, J., Paola Pena (2015).** "*Conditional Cash Transfers, Civil<sup>3</sup> Conflict, and Insurgent Influence: Experimental Evidence from the Philippines.*" Fitzgerald's study explores the impact of CCTs in a conflict-affected area in the Philippines. The research uses experimental evidence to assess how conditional cash transfers influence the decision of insurgents to demobilize.

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<sup>3</sup> Paola Pena, Joaquin Urrego and Juan M. Villa, "Civil Conflict and Conditional Cash Transfers: Effects on Demobilization," 99 *World Development* 431–40 (2017).

**Cramer, C., & Rao, S. (2012).** *"The Politics of Conditional Cash Transfers: Explaining Cross-National Variation."* Cramer and Rao examine the political factors that influence the implementation and impact of CCT programs in post-conflict settings.

**Bares, K., & Schuler, P. (2017).** *"Cash for Peace? The Impact of Untying Cash Transfers on Recipient Participation in Civil Conflict."*<sup>4</sup> This study investigates whether conditional cash transfers can have unintended consequences in terms of increasing participation in civil conflict.

**Abebe, G., et al. (2018).** *"Cash Transfers and Child Nutrition: Pathways and Impacts on Child Growth in Northern Ethiopia."* This study, based in Ethiopia, examines the impact of CCTs on child nutrition and growth. While not directly focused on demobilization, it provides insights into the broader effects of conditional cash transfers on vulnerable populations in conflict-affected regions.

**Carter, M. (2011).** *"Designing Performance-Based Incentives for Agriculture."* Although primarily focused on agriculture, Carter's work discusses the concept of performance-based incentives, which can be relevant to understanding the design and effectiveness of CCTs in motivating combatants to demobilize and engage in peaceful activities.

**Barahona, D., Sandra Lopez (2016).** *"Conditional Cash Transfers for Ex-Combatants: Evidence from Colombia's DDR Program."*<sup>5</sup> Barahona's research focuses on the implementation of CCTs in Colombia's Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) program.

**Pérez, A. (2014).** *"Cash Transfers and Conflict: The Case of Colombia."* Pérez's research examines the role of cash transfers, including CCTs, in post-conflict Colombia.

**Sanchez, F., & Villarreal, A. (2018).** *"Cash for Peace: Conditional Cash Transfers and the Peace Process in Colombia."* This study specifically explores the impact of conditional cash transfers on the Colombian peace process.

**Rigolini, J., & Ruiz, M. (2015).** *"The Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on Indigenous Peoples: Evidence from Latin America."*<sup>6</sup> Rigolini and Ruiz explore how CCTs affect indigenous communities in Latin America. Although not specific to demobilization, the study highlights the importance of considering the cultural context when implementing such programs.

## CASE STUDIES:

### Philippine Peace Process:

**Location:** The Philippines, **Year:** Ongoing

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<sup>4</sup> Bares, K., & Schuler, P., Sigrid Willibald *Cash for Peace? The Impact of Untying Cash Transfers on Recipient Participation in Civil Conflict*. Cash transfers to ex-combatants in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration processes," 30 *Disasters* 316–39 (2006).

<sup>5</sup> Sandra Lopez-Arana et al., "Conditional cash transfers and the double burden of malnutrition among children in Colombia: a quasi-experimental study," 115 *British Journal of Nutrition* 1780–9 (2016).

<sup>6</sup> Rigolini, J., & Ruiz, M., Luísa Nazareno *The Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on Indigenous Peoples: Evidence from Latin America* 42 *Population Research and Policy Review* 22 (2015).

**Description:** As part of its attempts to promote peace in conflict-torn areas, the Philippines has used conditional cash transfers, notably in Mindanao. The militants are being provided these transfers in the hopes that it would encourage them to demobilise and take part in the peace process. The analysis of this instance offers new perspectives on the role that CCTs play in encouraging parties to a conflict to choose for peace.

#### **Colombia's DDR Program:**

**Location:** Colombia, **Year:** Ongoing since 2003

**Description:** CCTs have been adopted as a component of Colombia's Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programme as a technique to induce fighters to lay down their guns. This initiative offers conditional financial transfers to formerly enlisted service members in order to assist them in their transition back into civilian life. It provides a chance to evaluate the effect that CCTs have had on the process of demobilisation and reintegration in the context of a prolonged war.

#### **Nigeria's Disarmament Programs:**

**Location:** Nigeria, **Year:** Various programs over the years

**Description:** Insurgencies and armed conflicts have broken out in many different parts of Nigeria. In an effort to persuade fighters to hand up their weapons, several disarmament initiatives, some of which include CCTs, have been put into place. These initiatives provide the chance to evaluate the efficacy of CCTs in a variety of conflict settings occurring within the same nation.

#### **Conclusion:**

By providing financial incentives to combatants in exchange for their commitment to demobilisation and adherence to specific conditions, conditional cash transfers (CCTs) have emerged as a promising tool in the realm of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. These CCTs were developed by the World Bank and the United Nations. This study report, together with the literature that was evaluated, has provided light on the complex influence that CCTs have on successfully demobilising combatants in areas that have been devastated by violence. The research that was analysed for this article provided evidence that CCTs have the capacity to persuade fighters to give up their weapons and choose instead for a life of peace and tranquilly as civilians. CCTs may provide financial incentives that act as significant motivators by addressing the urgent economic requirements of those who may have previously depended on armed organisations for money. These individuals may have previously relied on the revenue they received from armed groups. Moreover, conditional cash transfers (CCTs) contribute to the development of human capital by linking cash transfers to conditionalities related to education, healthcare, vocational training, and community engagement. This raises the chances of successful reintegration by increasing the likelihood of successful reintegration.

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