

Inclusive Refugee-Hosting in Uganda Improves Local Development and Prevents Public Backlash

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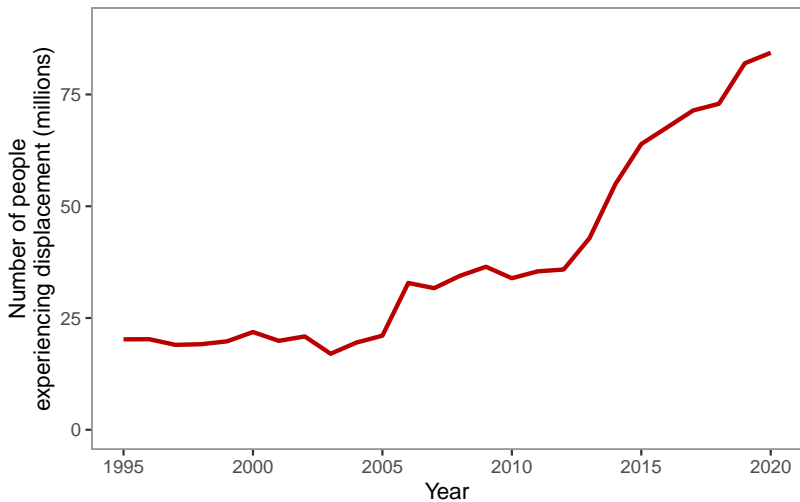
March 16, 2022

Research Questions

In the context of low-income countries, how does the presence of refugees affect:

1. local development outcomes?
2. attitudes toward migrants and migration policies?

Number of People Affected by Displacement Events are Unprecedented



Data source: UNHCR population statistics database

Research (and Conventional Wisdom) from Higher-Income Countries

When citizens are more exposed to refugees or other types of migrants, there is public backlash:

- **Turn to anti-migrant and far-right parties:** Germany (Otto and Steinhardt, 2014), Spain (Mendez and Cutillas, 2014), Italy (Barone et al., 2016), Austria (Halla, Wagner and Zweimüller, 2017; Steinmayr, 2021), Switzerland (Brunner and Kuhn, 2018), Greece (Dinas et al., 2019), Denmark (Dustmann, Vasiljeva and Piil Damm, 2019), France (Edo et al., 2019), U.S. (Mayda, Peri and Steingress, 2020), Colombia (Rozo and Vargas, 2021)
- **Support anti-migrant policies:** U.S. (Enos, 2014; Ferwerda, Flynn and Horiuchi, 2017), Greece (Hangartner et al., 2019)

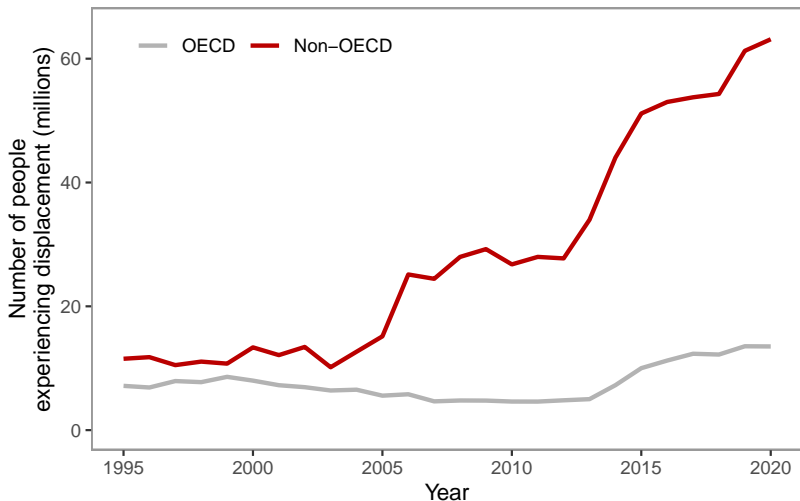
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Well, why then do we need more research on this topic?

Majority are Hosted in Lower Income Countries within the Global South



Data source: UNHCR population statistics database

Expectations May Differ for Lower-Income Countries

Reasons for less backlash

- Cultural and ethnic ties with host communities
- (Immigration) politics do not fall on a left-right partisan divide
- Fewer concerns about “drag on the welfare state”
- Refugees’ presence might bring aid and local development

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Reasons for more backlash

- Hosting refugees at a much larger scale
- Concerns over environment and land
- Poorer citizens are most affected
- Proximate to conflict

Development-Oriented Theoretical Framework

We build on related research in LICs:

Humanitarian and development aid, although primarily intended for refugees, can lead to positive externalities (Jacobsen, 2002; Loschmann, Bilgili and Siegel, 2019).

Opportunities for the state to develop capacity in peripheral areas (Whitaker, 2002; Sanghi, Onder and Vemuru, 2016).

Refugees bring human and physical capital, revitalizing economies (Betts et al., 2017; Lehmann and Masterson, 2020).

Development-Oriented Theoretical Framework



Core Expectation

Host communities with greater *refugee presence* (geographic proximity to larger settlements) will (1) experience more improvements to their local public goods, and thus, (2) not backlash against migrants or migration policy.

Context: Refugees in Uganda

Refugee-Hosting in Uganda is considered Progressive

MIGRATION

Uganda stands out in refugees hospitality

The country hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa – more than a million



From Africa Renewal: December 2018 - March 2019 | By: Sulaiman Momodu

PUBLICATION | OCTOBER 1, 2019

Uganda: Supporting Refugees and Host Communities to Become Secure and Self-Reliant

Latest Issue: October 2019



- *Uganda hosts more than 1.3 million refugees and its progressive and welcoming refugee policy is a model for other countries*

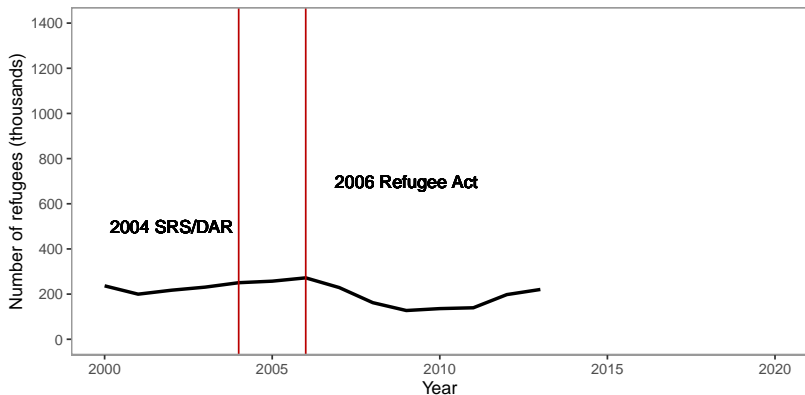


Grandi praises Uganda's 'model' treatment of refugees, urges regional leaders to make peace

UNHCR chief stresses host communities must also benefit from refugee presence with infrastructure improvements

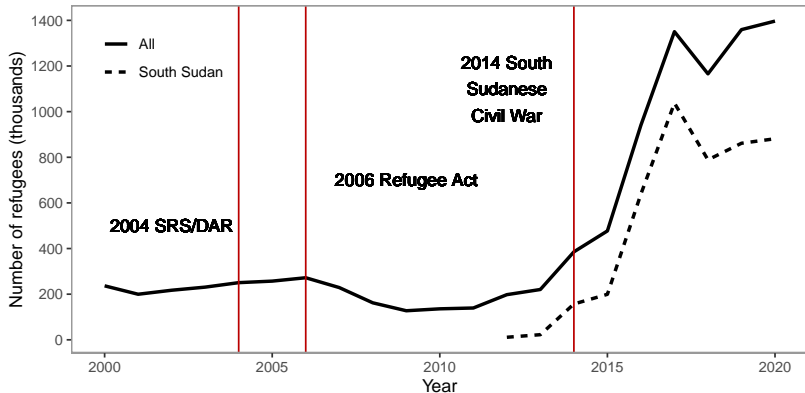
By Jonathan Clayton | 31 January 2018 | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [عربي](#)

Inclusive Refugee Legislation in 2000s



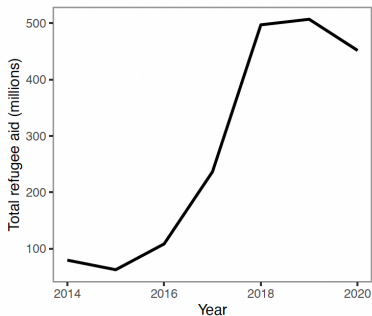
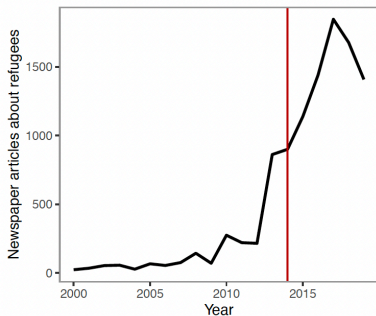
Data source: UNHCR population statistics database

Arrival of South Sudanese Refugees Post-2014



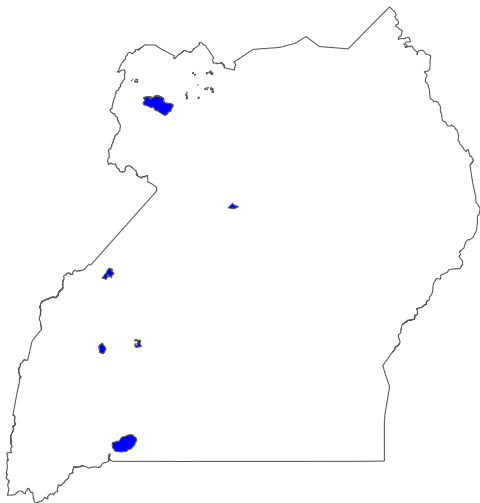
Data source: UNHCR population statistics database

Post-2014, Increases in Refugee Salience and Aid

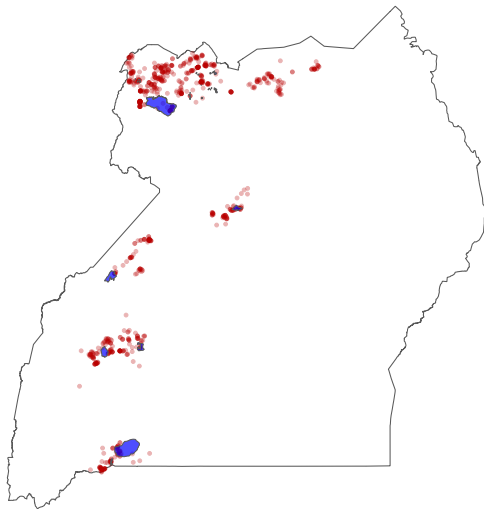


Data source: UNHCR Uganda, Lexis-Nexis, Factiva

94% Refugees live across 30 Settlements (13 Districts)

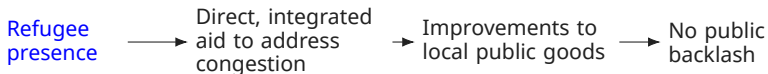


Locations of Current World Bank Infrastructural Projects



Data and Measurement

Data Structure

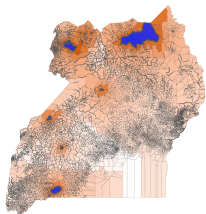


- Units: parish (5133) - years (2001/06/11/16/20)
- Nearest + 20km refugee presence:

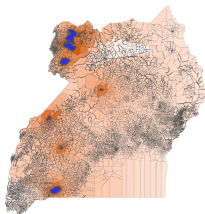
$$\log \left(\frac{\text{population}_{nt}}{\text{distance}_{nt}+1} + \sum_{i \in \text{rad}_{20km, -n}} \frac{\text{population}_{it}}{\text{distance}_{it}+1} + 1 \right)$$

Heatmaps of Nearest + 20km Presence Measure

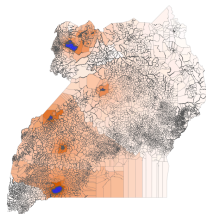
2001



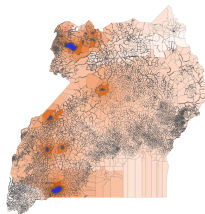
2006



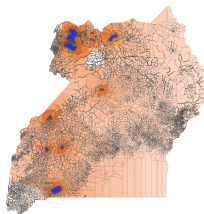
2011



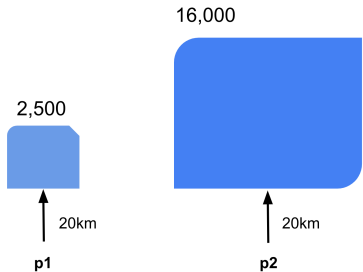
2016



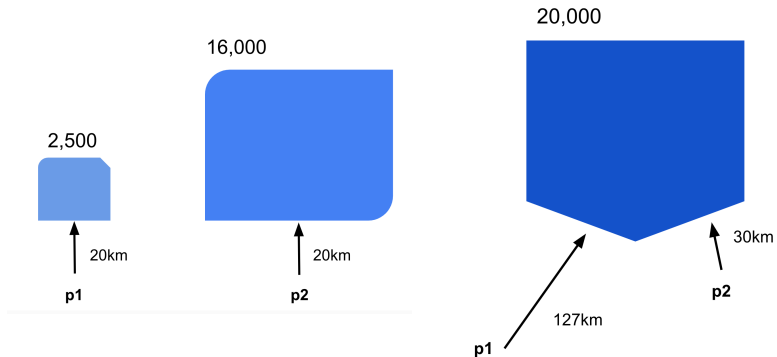
2020



What is a 1 sd Increase in Presence?



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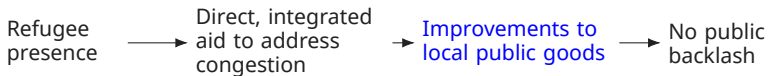


Data Structure



- interviews with UNHCR, World Bank officials
- review of official government reports, parliamentary speeches

Data Structure



- primary school access (EMIS; 22k),
- secondary schools access (World Bank; 3.6k),
- road density (NASA, OpenStreetMap WFP),
- health facilities access (MoH, UBoS, 7k),
- health utilization (DHS, 30k households)

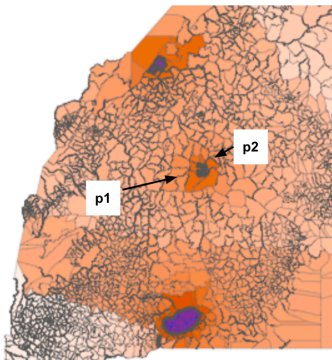
Data Structure



- migration attitudes,
- perceptions of insecurity (Afrobarometer R3-7, 10k+ surveys)

Diff-in-Diff Research Design

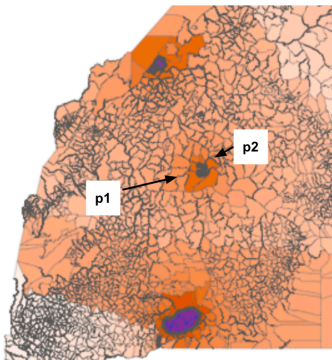
2011



Kyaka is nearest for p1 and p2

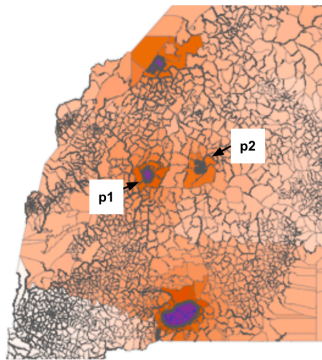
Diff-in-Diff Research Design

2011



Kyaka is nearest for p1 and p2

2016



Rwamwanja opens in 2013, p1's "treatment" increases

Empirical Strategy

Difference-in-differences: presence and controls interacted by year, parish, year and region fixed effects, and SEs clustered at the parish level,

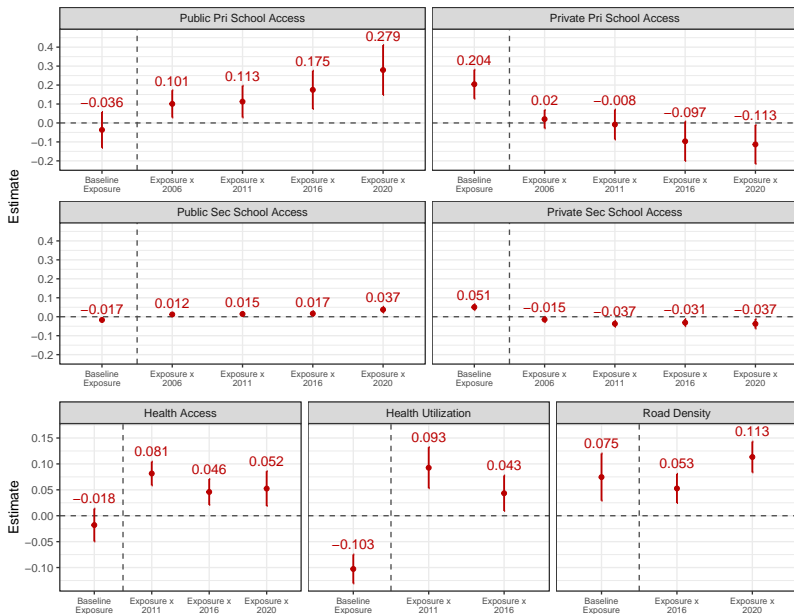
$$\begin{aligned}y_{it} = & \eta_i + \eta_t + \eta_r + \beta_1 \text{exposure}_{it} + \beta_2 \text{exposure}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2006\} \\ & + \beta_3 \text{exposure}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2011\} + \beta_4 \text{exposure}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2016\} \\ & + \beta_5 \text{exposure}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2020\} + \lambda_1 \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2006\} \\ & + \lambda_2 \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2011\} + \lambda_3 \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2016\} \\ & + \lambda_4 \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{1}\{\text{year}_{it} = 2020\} + \epsilon_{it}\end{aligned}$$

Alternative specs and Robustness checks:

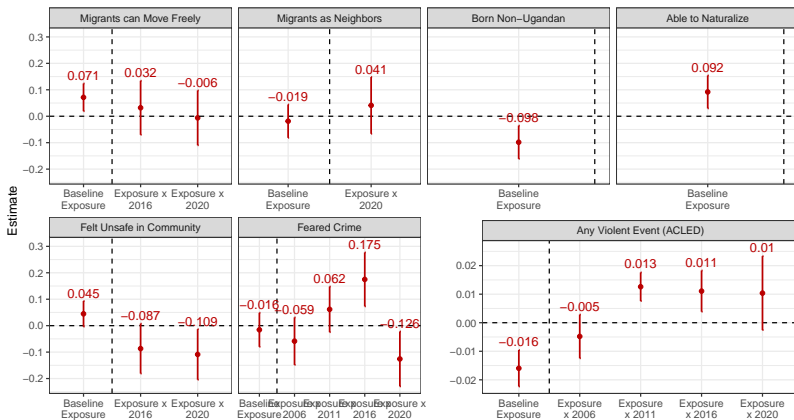
- versions of refugee presence measures,
- sample radii (100km, 150km, 200km, all parishes),
- two-period (pre/post-2014) two-group diff-in-diff,
- formal sensitivity analysis,
- multiple hypothesis testing

Results

Refugee Presence Improves Public Goods



No Backlash against Migration Policy, Some Fears of Insecurity



DiD estimates using Nearest + 20 presence measure, with a radius cutoff of 150km

Summary of Key Findings

- Hosting policies affect the relationship between local communities and refugees in host countries.
- Inclusive policies and investments can lead to positive spillovers for local host communities.
- We might expect liberal migration policies and large number of refugees to lead to backlash, especially among poorer citizens.
- Backlash against inclusive migration policies is not a generalized phenomena.

Implications

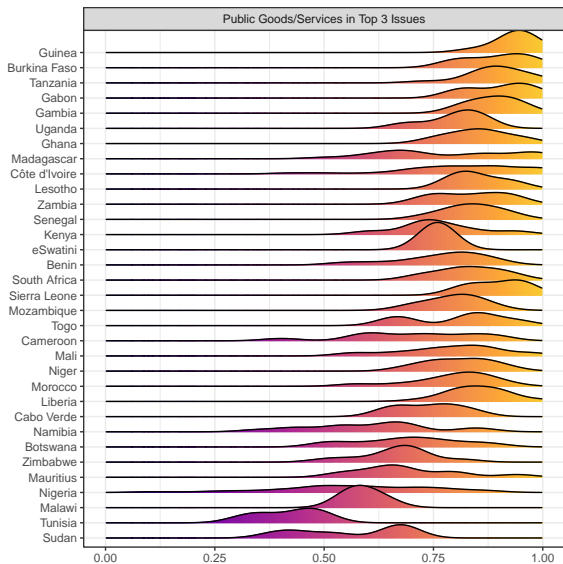
- Implications for theoretical debates about
 - social and economic effects of migration,
 - how global governance institutions can positively affect local development.
- Policy implications for approaches to hosting migrants, e.g. evidence supporting 2018 Global Compact on Refugees.
- Scope conditions: other countries changing their hosting policies to be more inclusive

Supplementary Information

- Public Goods as Top Concern
- WB UNHCR Interviews
- Parish Crosswalk
- Settlements Cellplot
- Settlements Map Labeled
- Data Structure
- Presence Levels Measure
- Presence Over Time
- Two Period DiD
- Shift-Share IV

ToC: [Intro](#) | [Theory](#) | [Context](#) | [Data](#) | [Results](#) | [Conclusion](#)

Voters care about Public Service Delivery



World Bank and UNHCR Staff Interviews Discuss Development Benefits

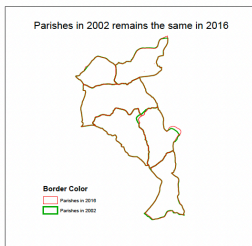
*“A goal that drives protection interventions such as infrastructure development or individual assistance programs that are allocated specifically to local communities rather than refugees alone. The intent is to help people (refugees) make a life, **while benefiting local communities, enhancing existing services.** Unfortunately there is not much data on this.”*

– UNHCR Senior Regional Protection Officer, 25 July 2018

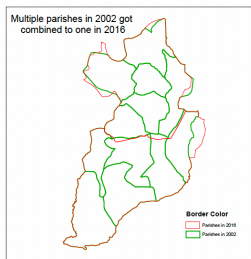
*“The way that things were traditionally done, the aid would be much more focused on the refugee population... More recently, the shift has been to how you boost services more generally to areas where refugees are located, **enhancing existing services.**”*

– UNHCR Senior Policy Officer, 23 July 2018

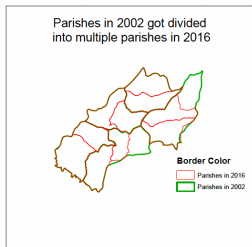
Parish 2016 to 2002 Crosswalk



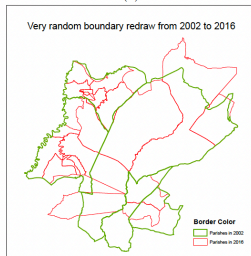
(a)



(b)

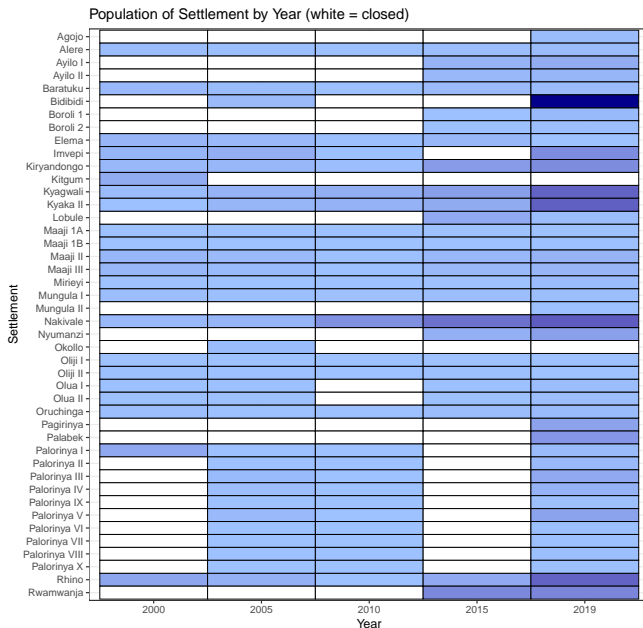


(c)

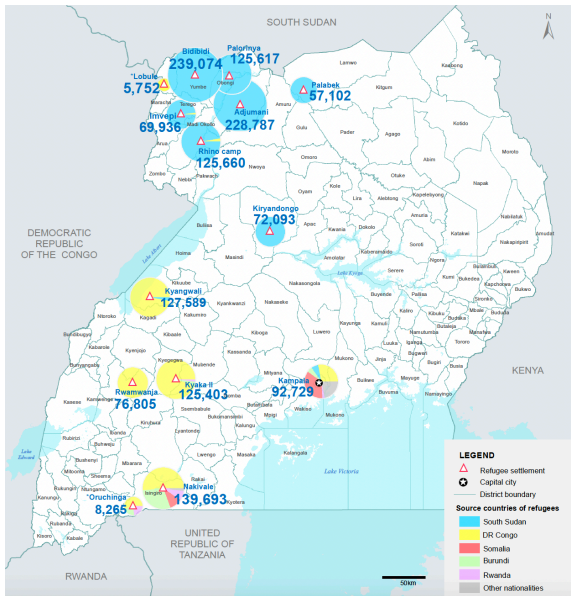


(d)

Ugandan Settlements Shaded by Population



Map of Current Settlements



Data Structure

- **Units of analysis:** parish (5133) - years (4) using 2002 parishes
- **Independent variable:** refugee presence levels
- **Electoral outcomes:** NRM voteshare [0-1], voter turnout [0-1], effective number of candidates (Uganda Electoral Commission)
- **Development outcomes:** 22k+ primary (EMIS) and 3600 secondary schools (World Bank), road density (NASA, OpenStreetMap WFP), 6800 health facilities access (MoH, UBoS), health utilization (30k+ households from DHS)
- **Public opinion:** support for president/NRM, govt effectiveness, migration attitudes, insecurity (10k+ respondents from Afrobarometer R3-7)
- **Controls:** population, average age, proportion male, literacy rate, unemployment rate, agriculture share, coethnic share, violent events, fatalities, poverty index, distance to nearest oil well, distance to border, distance to major road, distance to capital

Refugee Presence Levels

Nearest: presence is based on the nearest settlement n in year t :
 $\log \left(\frac{\text{population}_{nt}}{\text{distance}_{nt+1}} + 1 \right)$, in which distance is measured in kilometers.

Nearest + 20km: presence takes into account not only the nearest settlement n in year t , but also all settlements i within 20km of the parish:

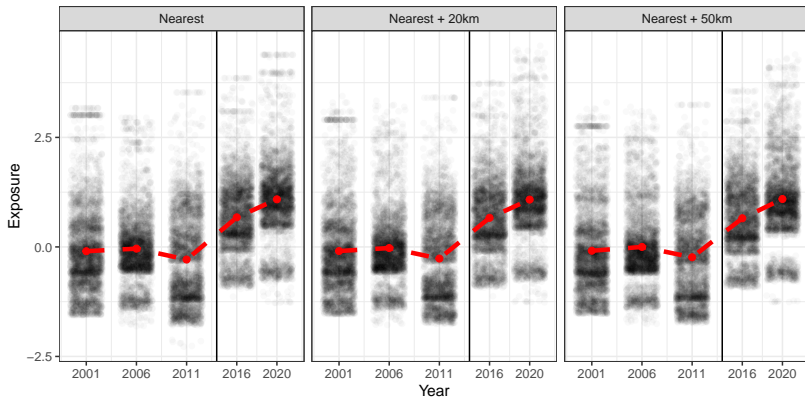
$$\log \left(\frac{\text{population}_{nt}}{\text{distance}_{nt+1}} + \sum_{i \in \text{rad}_{20km, -n}} \frac{\text{population}_{it}}{\text{distance}_{it+1}} + 1 \right).$$

Nearest + 50km: presence takes into account the nearest settlement n in year t and all settlements i within 50km of the parish:

$$\log \left(\frac{\text{population}_{nt}}{\text{distance}_{nt+1}} + \sum_{i \in \text{rad}_{50km, -n}} \frac{\text{population}_{it}}{\text{distance}_{it+1}} + 1 \right).$$

All measures are standardized mean 0, standard deviation 1.

Value of Presence Measures over Time



Standard Two Period Diff-in-Diff Results

	Vote Share	Voter Turnout	Candidates	Primary School Access	Private Primary School Access	Public Primary School Access	Secondary School Access	Private Secondary School Access	Public Secondary School Access	Health Access	Road Density
Exposure	0.137 ^{***} (0.008)	0.006 (0.005)	-0.226 ^{***} (0.025)	0.125 ^{***} (0.031)	-0.016 (0.049)	0.086 ^{**} (0.035)	0.070 ^{**} (0.030)	0.056 ^{**} (0.027)	-0.024 (0.032)	0.006 (0.029)	-0.015 (0.046)
Controls x Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sample Distance (km)	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
Num. obs.	13051	13051	13051	13708	13708	13708	13708	13708	13708	10122	6749
R ² (full model)	0.923	0.732	0.792	0.911	0.791	0.954	0.899	0.888	0.917	0.880	0.759
R ² (proj model)	0.561	0.323	0.337	0.059	0.016	0.047	0.038	0.038	0.050	0.083	0.138
Num. groups: time_fe	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Num. groups: parish_id	3556	3556	3556	3586	3586	3586	3586	3586	3586	3377	3377
Num. groups: region	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

$p < 0.01$; $p < 0.05$; $p < 0.1$

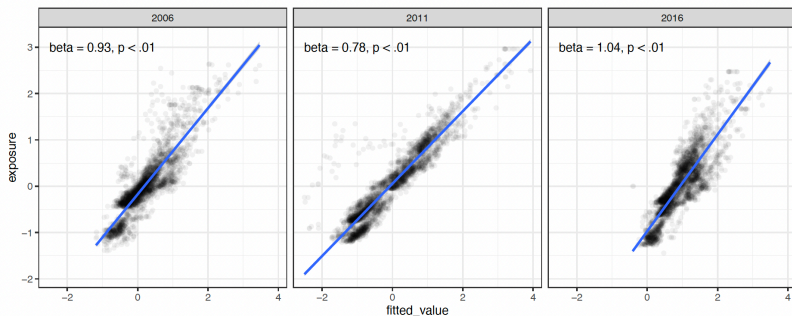
Modified Shift-Share Instrumental Variable

Modified shift-share IV at the refugee settlement level $Z_{st} = \sum_{p \leq t} Z_{sp}^{MOV}$, where $Z_{st}^{MOV} = \sum_{c \neq \text{Uganda}} \delta_{sc}^{2000} M_{ct}$, in which δ_{sc}^{2000} is the share of refugees from origin country c who lived in settlement s in the year 2000, M_{ct} is the inflow of refugees from country c between year $t - 1$ and t . Our instrument is $\text{IVpresence}_{it} = \log\left(\frac{Z_{nt}}{\text{distance}_{nt+1}} + 1\right)$ where n is the nearest settlement.

First stage:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\text{presence}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2006\}, \text{presence}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2011\}, \text{presence}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2016\}) = \\ & \delta_j + \lambda_t + \alpha_1 \text{IVpresence}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2006\} + \alpha_2 \times \text{IVpresence}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2011\} + \\ & \alpha_3 \times \text{IVpresence}_{it} \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2016\} + \gamma_1 \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2006\} + \gamma_2 \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2011\} + \\ & \gamma_3 \mathbf{x}_i \times \mathbf{1}\{yr_{it} = 2016\} + \nu_{it} \end{aligned}$$

Predicted vs. Actual Values of Refugee Presence



IV Results

	Vote Share	Voter Turnout	Candidates	Primary School Access	Private Primary School Access	Public Primary School Access	Secondary School Access	Private Secondary School Access	Public Secondary School Access	Health Access	Road Density
Baseline Exposure	-0.030 (0.022)	-0.017 (0.012)	-0.408*** (0.131)	-0.045 (0.044)	0.122** (0.056)	-0.117*** (0.040)	-0.150*** (0.052)	-0.017 (0.041)	-0.134** (0.054)	0.444*** (0.112)	-1.981** (0.955)
Exposure x 2006	0.097*** (0.029)	0.004 (0.016)	-0.578*** (0.180)	-0.062 (0.060)	0.111 (0.077)	-0.130** (0.055)	-0.206*** (0.072)	-0.075 (0.056)	-0.170** (0.071)		
Exposure x 2011	0.047*** (0.003)	0.010*** (0.003)	-0.046*** (0.017)	0.032** (0.013)	0.008 (0.019)	-0.010 (0.011)	-0.013 (0.012)	-0.016 (0.012)	-0.016 (0.011)	-0.193*** (0.053)	
Exposure x 2016	0.111*** (0.036)	-0.013 (0.021)	-0.643*** (0.218)	-0.055 (0.088)	0.145 (0.114)	-0.232*** (0.080)	-0.333*** (0.101)	-0.139* (0.080)	-0.268** (0.107)	-0.130*** (0.031)	-1.271* (0.701)
Diff 2016-2011	0.064	-0.022	-0.598	-0.087	0.137	-0.222	-0.319	-0.123	-0.252	0.062	
SE Diff 2016-2011	0.035	0.020	0.218	0.084	0.107	0.077	0.097	0.075	0.104	0.059	
Exposure Measure Sample Distance (km)	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200	Nearest + 20km 200
Controls x Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic	24.329	7.245	2.818	27.066	11.039	47.486	20.234	21.689	27.884	13.512	1.010
Num. obs.	16079	16079	16079	16928	16928	16928	16928	16928	16928	12576	8384

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