

PROPOSAL: RANDOMIZED EVALUATIONS OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN NIGERIA AND MALAWI

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Professor Mushfiq Mobarak, a development economist, is looking to hire an undergraduate Research Assistant through the SRO program to assist him on two of his current projects. On one of the projects the RA will be working on is a randomized experiment based evaluation of the Malawi National AIDS Commission program to use vocational training as a way to counter low rates of employment and high rates of HIV prevalence among youth in Malawi. In this program, a cohort of young women and girls was chosen to participate in apprenticeship training in one of the following trades: food production, sewing, soap-making, carpentry, vehicle repair or brick-laying. Following the training, the participants will receive a start-up kit for business and entrepreneurial support to assist them as they began their businesses. The overall aim of the programs was to increase participants' rates of employment and income, improve levels of self-sufficiency, and reduce risky behaviors that increase exposure to HIV.

The second project assesses the impact of infrastructure provision in Nigeria by taking advantage of a World Bank funded commercial Agriculture Development Project aimed to strengthened agricultural production systems and to facilitate access to market for targeted value chains among small and medium scale commercial farmers in five participating states (Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Enugu, and Cross River). These states have agreed to randomize the timing of the roll-out of US\$30 million worth of access roads to rural farms, and US\$50 million worth of rural energy infrastructure. The evaluation proposed is among the first to use designed random variation in the availability of infrastructure to catalogue its effects on development outcomes.

The RA will work directly with Professor Mobarak and be responsible for Impact Evaluation Questionnaire design, a critical component of economic research that employs the use of randomized control trials. The impact evaluations for the Malawi project will observe the effect of the apprenticeship program on employment, self-sufficiency, and healthy behaviors as compared to the control group. For the Nigeria project, impact evaluations will examine the effect of infrastructure development on access to farm roads, energy, and markets compared to those in the states in other cycles of project implementation. Please see www.som.yale.edu/faculty/am833 for brief descriptions of Professor Mobarak's ongoing projects in the field.