



Seriously? RCT's Role in Peacebuilding

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Governance, Conflict and Crime Initiative

- GCCCI tests solutions that can help low and middle income countries:
 - Overcome crime, violence, and corruption
 - Examine the causes of instability and insecurity
 - Support recovery and resiliency in countries affected by crisis and disaster
- GCCCI supports three linked research initiatives:
 - Governance Initiative
 - Crime and Violence Initiative
 - Peace and Recovery Program



GCCL is implemented by IPA and J-PAL



J-PAL and IPA work to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence.

- 26 offices worldwide
- Global network of over 200 leading affiliated researchers at 50+ universities

Together, researchers affiliated with J-PAL and IPA have conducted over 1000 randomized evaluations in over 80 countries.



Role of RCT's in Peacebuilding

- RCTs can be implemented in peacebuilding.
- Doing so would give us more knowledge about what works, allowing us to ensure resources are spent on projects with higher impact.
- Two examples.
 - Reconciliation program in Sierra Leone.
 - Peacebuilding program in Liberia.



War leaves wounds



Photo: Finbarr O'Reilly/Reuters



Can the wounds of war be healed?



Photo: Sara Terry



Districts of Operation

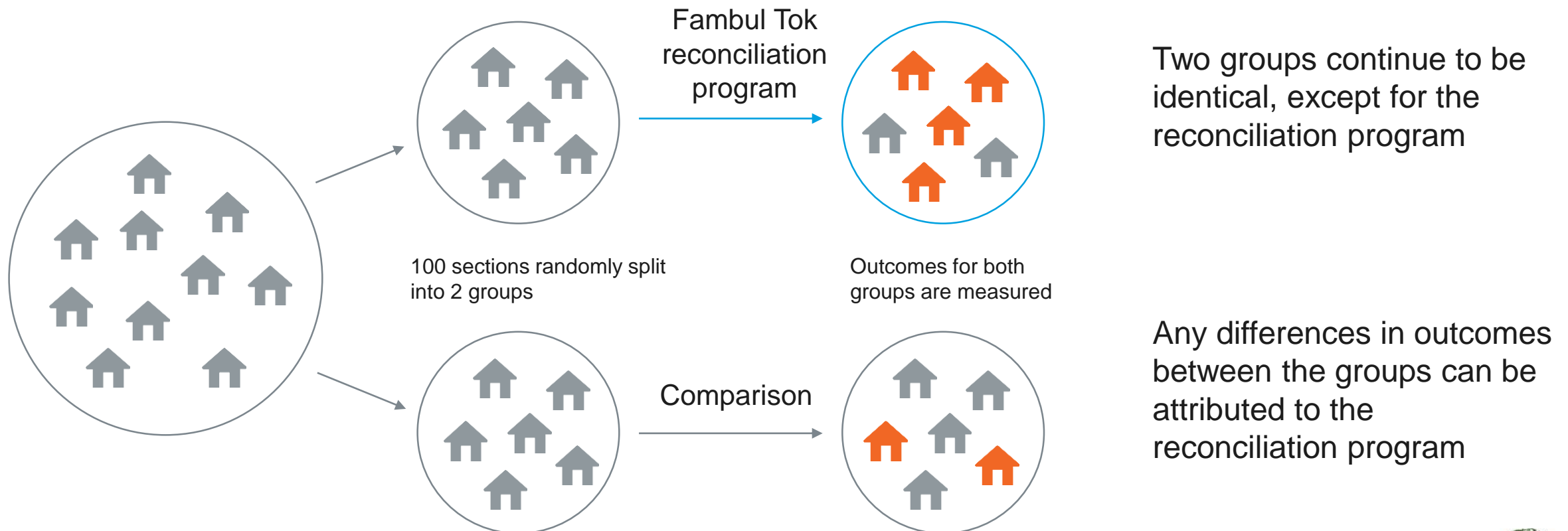


Cilliers, Jacobus, Oeindrila Dube, and Bilal Siddiqi. "Reconciling after civil conflict increases social capital but decreases individual well-being." *Science* 352.6287 (2016): 787-794. [Link to website](#). [Link to paper](#).



Randomized evaluations rigorously test the effectiveness of programs and policies

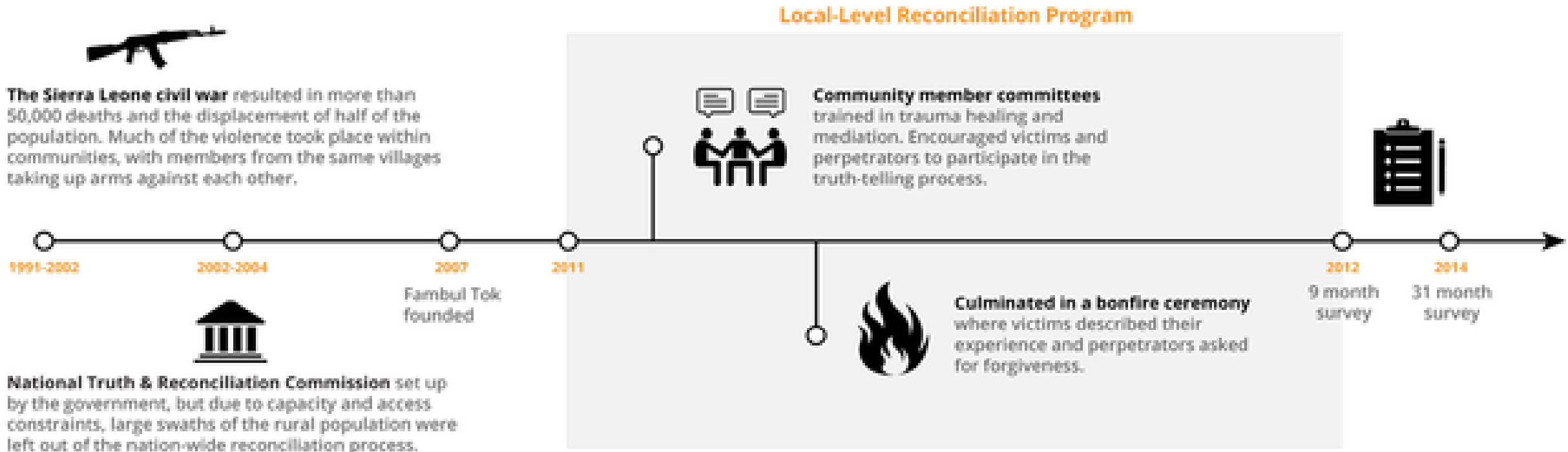
Among a sample of 100 sections of 10 villages, sections randomly assigned to two groups so that they were statistically identical before the reconciliation program was implemented



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Study Timeline



Cilliers, Jacobus, Oeindrila Dube, and Bilal Siddiqi. "Reconciling after civil conflict increases social capital but decreases individual well-being." *Science* 352.6287 (2016): 787-794. [Link to website](#). [Link to paper](#).



Surveyed 2,383 people



Photo: Jeffrey Steinberg



What did this reconciliation program lead to?

- Forgiveness increased.
- Social networks became stronger.
 - More friendships.
 - Relied more on other people.
- Participation in organizations increased.
 - Women's groups.
 - Parent teacher organizations.



Photo: Jeffrey Steinberg



What did this reconciliation program lead to?

- Psychological well-being deteriorates.
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - PTSD



Photo: Jeffrey Steinberg

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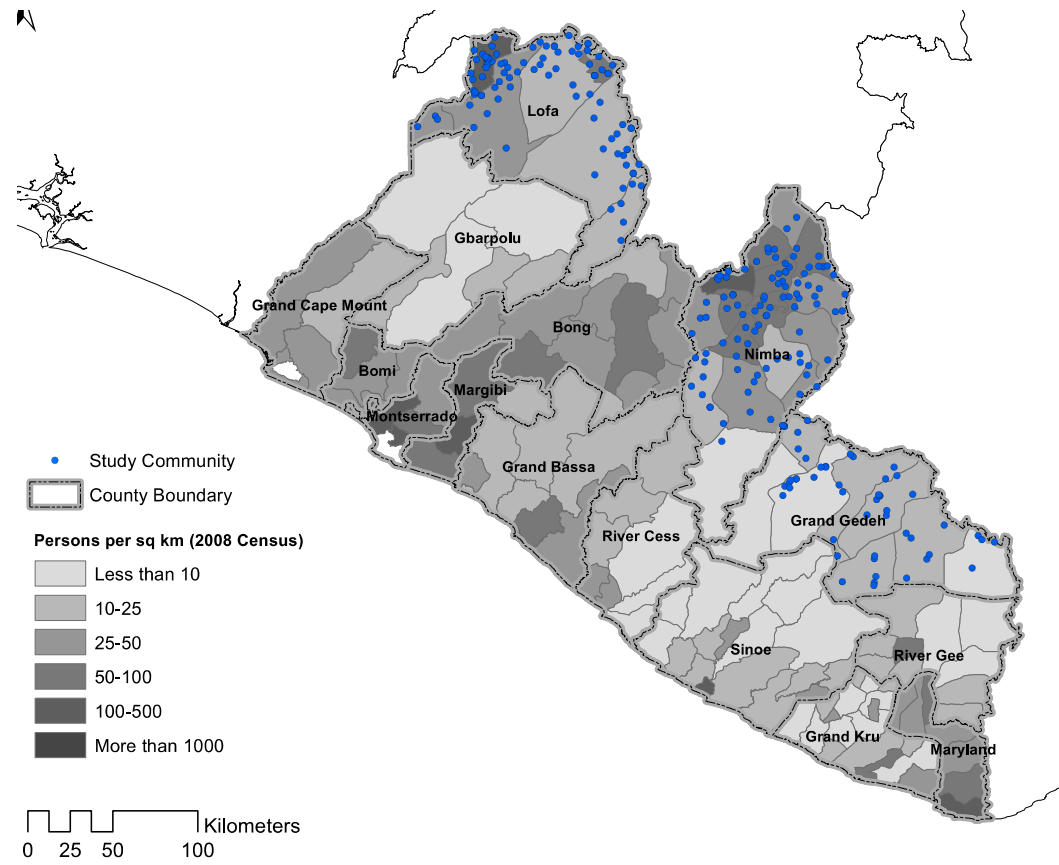
Can we teach peace?



Photo: Glenna Gordon



Districts of Operation



What does peacebuilding intervention lead to?

- Same number of disputes, but backlog gets resolved.
- Disputes over real property are less violent.
- Some evidence of change in norms and skills.



Photo: Research team

Blattman, Christopher, Alexandra C. Hartman, and Robert A. Blair. "How to promote order and property rights under weak rule of law? An experiment in changing dispute resolution behavior through community education." *American Political Science Review* 108.1 (2014): 100-120. [Link to website](#). [Link to paper](#).



What does peacebuilding intervention lead to?

But...

- Short-run rise in extrajudicial punishment.
- The powerful seem to benefit more in terms of property rights security.
- Question of cost-efficiency.



Photo: Research team

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What is the role of RCTs in peacebuilding?

Looking forward to the discussion and to hearing from you:

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