

## Supplementary Materials

### SM1. Treatment and Assignment

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: Development Partners and Chief \_\_\_\_\_  
TO: Village Development Committee  
RE: Development Project in \_\_\_\_\_ Village

Dear Chair Village Development Committee Overseeing \_\_\_\_\_ Village:

We write to inform you that Chief \_\_\_\_\_ has designated the \_\_\_\_\_ household to receive a set of 10 iron sheets. The materials are funded by and distributed in cooperation with a group of international donors, represented by the officer whose signature appears below.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donors Representative

Figure SM1.: Example Letter

Note: Figure shows the letter used in the third treatment, which provided chiefs' political superiors with the ability to monitor the distribution of iron sheets.

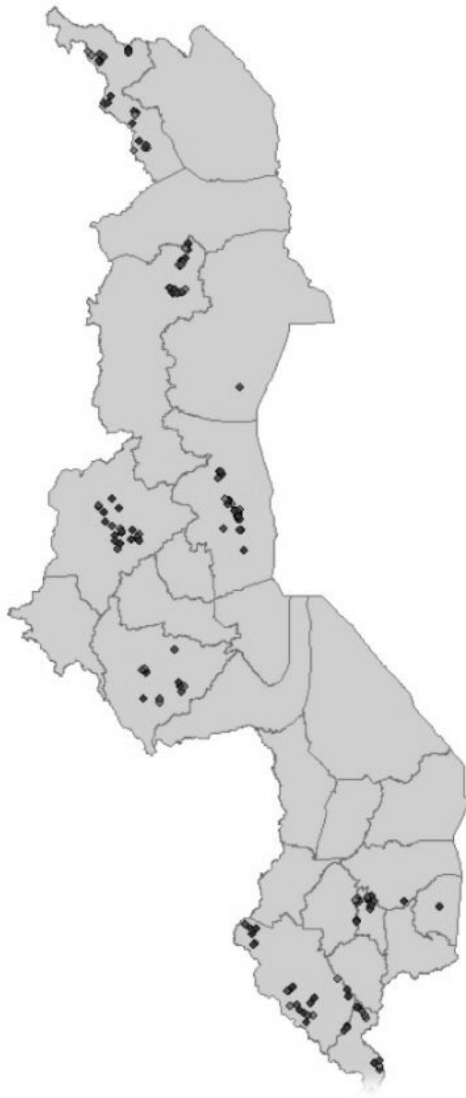


Figure SM2.: Sampled Chiefs

Note: Map shows locations of sampled villages/village chiefs.

Table SM1.: Covariate Balance Across Treatments

	Treatment Assignment		
	1	2	3
<b>Chief's characteristics</b>			
Years as chief	0.006 (0.018)	0.010 (0.018)	0.002 (0.018)
Lifelong community resident?	-0.919 (0.641)	-0.175 (0.676)	-0.763 (0.636)
Work for government?	-14.360 (850.845)	-1.325 (1.333)	-14.737 (874.648)
Years education	0.287 (0.617)	0.808 (0.583)	0.390 (0.597)
Income bracket	0.098 (0.420)	-0.512 (0.454)	0.369 (0.409)
Support incumbent party?	-0.656 (0.505)	-0.218 (0.489)	-0.078 (0.481)
Ever traveled outside Malawi?	-0.802 (0.477)	-1.183* (0.486)	-0.433 (0.471)
<b>Prospective recipients' characteristics</b>			
Already have iron roofing?	0.523 (0.964)	0.343 (1.005)	-1.910 (1.422)
Community ranks as needy?	-1.813 (1.363)	-0.855 (1.452)	-0.977 (1.533)
Index of need	0.159 (0.201)	0.107 (0.203)	0.051 (0.203)
Constant	2.080 (1.853)	0.768 (1.926)	0.747 (1.971)
<i>N</i>	183	183	183

Standard errors in parentheses

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Table SM2.: Balance between treatments

	1 vs. 2	1 vs. 3	2 vs 3
Years as chief	0.004 (0.018)	-0.004 (0.018)	-0.008 (0.019)
Lifelong community resident?	0.731 (0.629)	0.160 (0.594)	-0.571 (0.643)
Work for government?	13.039 (859.312)	-0.368 (1213.207)	-13.406 (856.420)
Years education	0.516 (0.563)	0.096 (0.583)	-0.420 (0.557)
Income bracket	-0.622 (0.437)	0.263 (0.395)	0.885* (0.438)
Support incumbent party?	0.434 (0.506)	0.581 (0.504)	0.148 (0.494)
Ever traveled outside Malawi?	-0.372 (0.500)	0.378 (0.493)	0.749 (0.506)
<b>Prospective recipients' characteristics</b>			
Already have iron roofing	-0.184 (0.938)	-2.383 (1.359)	-2.199 (1.406)
Community ranks as needy?	0.940 (1.208)	0.828 (1.323)	-0.112 (1.430)
Index of need	-0.040 (0.192)	-0.109 (0.195)	-0.069 (0.199)
_cons	-1.280 (1.727)	-1.304 (1.817)	-0.024 (1.904)
<i>N</i>	183	183	183

Standard errors in parentheses

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

## SM2. Robustness Checks

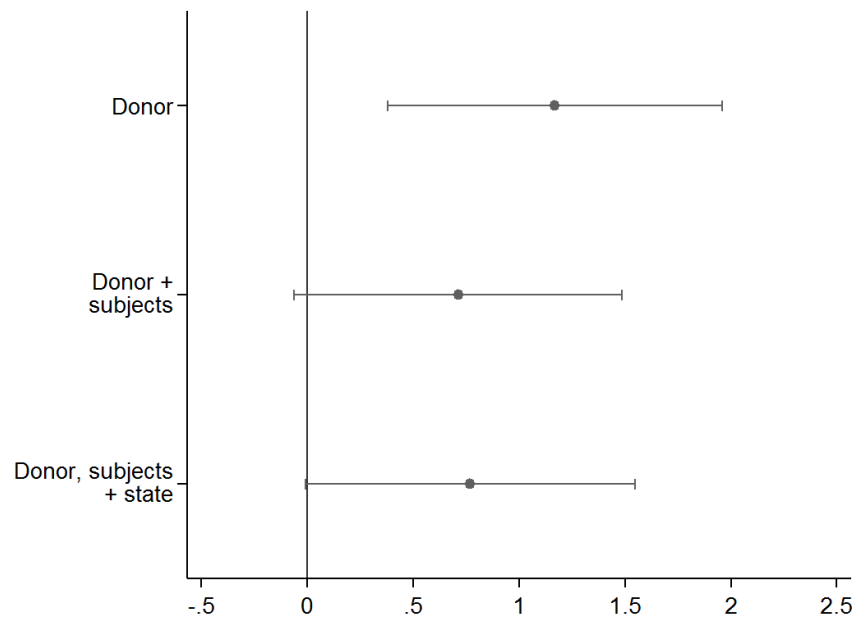


Figure SM3.: Treatment Effect on Average Need of Recipient, by Monitoring Principal(s)

Note: Figure shows average need of recipient, by treatment, with 95% confidence intervals. Need is a six-point scale that includes whether the recipient household: owns iron roofing, permanent brick walls, livestock, or a bicycle; is headed by an elderly person or a child; and cares for orphans. Higher scores indicate more need. Scores are reported by community informants not from the recipient households.

Table SM3.: Effects of monitoring by each principal

	(1)	(2)
Treat incl. donor monitoring	-0.814 <sup>†</sup> (0.454)	-0.938 <sup>†</sup> (0.490)
Treat incl. citizen monitoring	0.172 (0.455)	0.343 (0.484)
Treat incl. monitoring by superiors	-0.124 (0.458)	-0.236 (0.488)
Years as chief		0.00407 (0.0145)
Lifelong community resident?		0.0518 (0.504)
Years education		0.258 (0.463)
Income bracket		0.308 (0.345)
Work for government?		-0.160 (1.537)
Support incumbent party?		0.350 (0.388)
Ever traveled outside Malawi?		-0.0499 (0.388)
Constant	-0.504 (0.420)	-1.320 (1.038)
<i>N</i>	199	188

Standard errors in parentheses

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Table SM4.: Results using need index rather than subjective assessment of need

	(1)	(2)
[1em] Treatment One	0.956** (0.321)	
Treatment Two	0.482 (0.315)	
Treatment Three	0.537 (0.316)	
Treatment incl. donor monitoring		0.842** (0.317)
Treatment incl. citizen monitoring		-0.397 (0.321)
Treatment incl. top-down monitoring		0.0735 (0.322)
Years as chief	0.000962 (0.0101)	0.00170 (0.0102)
Lifelong	0.103 (0.334)	0.0877 (0.335)
Income bracket	-0.0138 (0.226)	-0.0203 (0.227)
Years education	0.0251 (0.294)	-0.0309 (0.295)
Supports incumbent party?	-0.141 (0.263)	-0.143 (0.265)
Works for government?	0.466 (0.924)	0.459 (0.929)
Constant	1.372* (0.670)	1.473* (0.668)
<i>N</i>	192	192

Standard errors in parentheses

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Table SM5.: Chief's choice to allocate sheets to relative

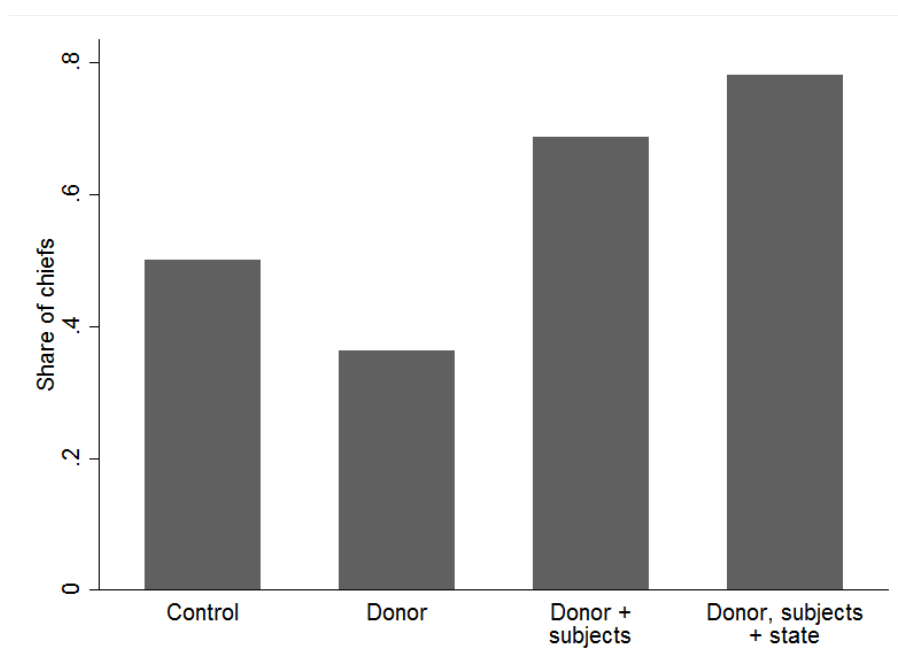
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Treatment One (Donor only)	0.000 (0.737)	-0.119 (0.798)	
Treatment Two (Donor, citizens)	1.595** (0.606)	1.660* (0.689)	
Treatment Three (Donor, citizens, superiors)	1.177 (0.623)	1.262 (0.704)	
Treatment incl. donor monitoring			-0.139 (0.797)
Treatment incl. citizen monitoring			1.788** (0.691)
Treatment incl. top-down monitoring			-0.399 (0.572)
Years as chief		-0.003 (0.022)	-0.003 (0.022)
Lifelong resident of community?		1.236 (1.150)	1.236 (1.149)
Years education		-0.572 (0.830)	-0.568 (0.831)
Income bracket		0.360 (0.431)	0.362 (0.432)
Work for government?		0.000 (.)	0.000 (.)
Support incumbent party?		-1.046 (0.707)	-1.047 (0.707)
Ever traveled outside Malawi?		-0.770 (0.592)	-0.771 (0.592)
Constant	-2.442*** (0.521)	-3.173 (1.782)	-3.168 (1.775)
<i>N</i>	200	185	185

Standard errors in parentheses

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$



Figure SM4.: Allocation to Recipient Related to Chief, by Monitoring Principal(s)



Note: Figure shows share of recipients who are related to the chief, by treatment. Relationships were reported by local informants not themselves related to the chief.