

Appendix A

Description of Qualitative Fieldwork

Fieldwork on clientelism was conducted by the author for more than eighteen months in Brazil. During and after the 2008 municipal campaign, I conducted a total of 110 formal interviews on clientelism in Bahia state. These interviews were conducted of both citizens (55 interviews) and elites (55 interviews). Each interview was conducted in Portuguese, lasting an average of 70 minutes. In addition, I conducted informal interviews of another 350 citizens and elites, and three focus groups of citizens.

This fieldwork was supplemented in Pernambuco in mid-2012 with additional interviews of sixteen elites and six rural citizens. These supplementary interviews specifically focused on clientelism in water delivery, and therefore did not employ the same interview protocol as the Bahia research. I conducted the Pernambuco interviews in collaboration with Gustavo Bobonis and Marco Gonzalez-Navarro.

Interviews were conducted in municipalities with 100,000 citizens or fewer. Municipalities of this size account for approximately 45 percent of Brazil's population (IBGE, 2010). They also comprise about 95 percent of the country's municipalities. The primary field site, Bahia, is the most populous state in the Northeast region of Brazil with 14 million citizens (IBGE, 2010). Pernambuco is also in the Northeast region with 8.8 million citizens. The Northeast is the poorest region of Brazil and one of the most unequal regions in the world. Approximately 29 percent of Bahia's population lives in households below the poverty level, and the state has amongst the lowest social indicators in Brazil (UNDP, 2017). The Gini coefficient of income inequality in Bahia is 0.62 (UNDP, 2017).

In order to identify potential themes, develop interview questions, and field-test the citizen and elite interview protocols, I commenced this qualitative research in a municipality of ten thousand citizens in central Bahia, where I lived for approximately five months. During this time, I selected a stratified

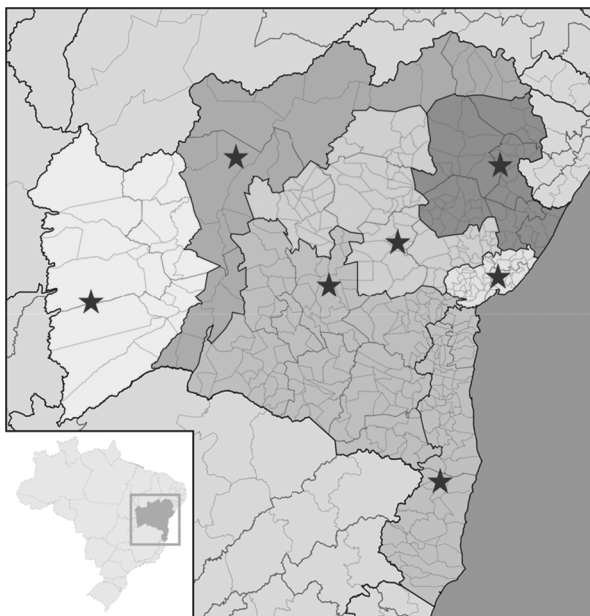


FIGURE A.1 Map of research sites in Bahia (Northeast Brazil)

random sample of six additional municipalities to conduct further interviews. Altogether, the municipalities spanned each of Bahia's seven "mesoregions," which are defined by Brazil's national census bureau (IBGE) as areas that share common geographic characteristics. Figure A.1 shows the geographical distribution of interview locations across the state of Bahia. The population sizes of the seven municipalities selected were approximately: 10,000; 15,000; 30,000; 45,000; 60,000; 80,000; and nearly 100,000.

Within each selected municipality, individuals for community member interviews were selected randomly using quota sampling in multiple rural and urban areas. Criteria for participation were as follows: (1) interviewees were at least sixteen years of age (the voting age in Brazil), (2) they had lived in the municipality since the previous mayoral election, and (3) they were not a household member of any other interviewee. The sample was stratified to ensure balanced representation across gender, age, and urban/rural mix.

In Bahia, with respect to elites, a range of perspectives were obtained by interviewing ten mayors and former mayors, twenty-eight city councilors, three vice-mayors, six party heads, five heads of social services, and several other elites. These interviews were balanced to include a combination of elites both allied and opposed to the current municipal administration. Given that mayors may face different incentives if ineligible for reelection, the random sample of

municipalities was stratified to include municipalities with both first-term and second-term mayors.¹

Informed consent was obtained from all community members and elites before initiating each interview. The citizen and elite interview protocols consisted of both open-ended and closed-ended questions. An iterative research design was employed; pertinent themes emerging during thematic analysis were investigated during ongoing interviews. While the original, core questions in the interview protocols were asked of all respondents, probes about emerging themes were included in later interviews.

When combined with later Pernambuco interviews, total interviews included seventy-one elites (primarily mayors and councilors) and sixty-one citizens (both urban and rural residents). Altogether, interviewed elites included fourteen mayors and former mayors, thirty-four city councilors, three vice-mayors, six party heads, five heads of social services, and several others.

¹ The prior three paragraphs and map are adapted from Nichter (2014a).