Family ties: Understanding household labor allocation for mitigating impacts of disasters, conflict, and COVID-19

Ann Furbush\textsuperscript{a} Anna Josephson\textsuperscript{a} Jeffrey D. Michler\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics, University of Arizona

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Objective

Our Goal
Understand how household income diversification affects welfare outcomes in the face of compounding risks in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Leverage longitudinal survey data from COVID-19 phone surveys and pre-COVID-19 face-to-face surveys in:

- Burkina Faso
- Ethiopia
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- Uganda
2018-19 LSMS-ISA data serve as a baseline.

Phone surveys after the onset of the pandemic provide follow-up information.

- Nationally representative samples.
- 12-month data collection cycle.
- 46 survey rounds and 98,000+ interviews across 5 countries.
The stressor: Concerns about the financial threat of the pandemic remain high.
The problem: Share of respondents engaged in income-generating activities has fluctuated.
The problem: Share of households reporting income loss has been large, though recovering.
The response: Most common coping mechanisms are relying on savings and reducing food consumption.
The outcome: Food insecurity remains high, particularly in Malawi and Nigeria.
The outcome: Educational engagement during COVID-19 is low.
Next Steps

- Further explore relationship between livelihood diversification and welfare outcomes after multiple stressors.
- Continue progress on rigorous literature review.
- Integrate pre-COVID baseline data.
- Conduct analysis using panel and diff-in-diff methods.
CHAPTER 7

The evolving socioeconomic impacts of Covid-19 in four African countries

Ann Furbush,* Anna Josephson,* Taipl Kille* and Jeffrey D. Michler*
*University of Arizona/World Bank

INTRODUCTION

The socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are not yet fully understood as the disease continues to affect individuals and households around the world. Governments have worked to attenuate these socioeconomic impacts by limiting the spread of the virus and mitigating the negative health outcomes of the disease through various policy measures. These policies include limiting travel, imposing quarantines and lockdowns, and closing businesses and schools. The effects of the pandemic have been felt worldwide, though little evidence yet exists on the ongoing impacts for individuals and households in Africa (see exceptions in the chapters in Djakos and Panizzi 2020). We rely on direct measurements of socioeconomic indicators to present evidence on the evolving effects of the pandemic on households, adults, and children living in four African countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda), as well as the actions that households are taking to mitigate these impacts.

DATA AND METHODS

To examine the evolving effects of the pandemic, we use longitudinal data from high-frequency national phone surveys in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda. In each country, these phone surveys aim to conduct monthly phone interviews, for a period of 12 months. Supported by the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), the implementing agencies for the phone surveys in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda are, respectively,Latehir Ethiopia, the Malawi National Statistical Office, the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics. The anonymised, unit-record phone survey data— as well as basic information documents, interviewer manuals, and questionnaires— associated with each monthly survey round are made publicly available through the World Bank Microdata Library, under the High-Frequency Phone Survey collection (World Bank 2020a, 2020b, 2020c, 2020d).