

Health status of remittance receiving households: Evidence from the 2014 National Population and Housing Census

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Introduction

Migration through remittances sent by migrants is a baroque phenomenon that plays a developmental role in today's world and a momentous phenomenon in achieving the agenda for the 2030 sustainable Development goals. Remittances accounted for 1.9% percent of GDP for all developing countries in 2008, and 5.9% for low income countries (López-cevallos & Chi, 2012). The international transfers from migrants to their places of origin play a significant role in the health and well-being of recipients by financing the purchase of food, clothing, and housing; education expenses; land and businesses investments; and health care services. In African countries, migration process effectuates numerous challenges that generate immensely adverse consequences because through migration, migrants and areas of origin get affected by major significant public health diseases (Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV) (IOM, 2017).

Most studies on migration have focused on the determinants of rural urban migration and its consequences (Mutandwa, Taremwa & Uwimana, 2011; Bloom, 1985), Kabera (1983) carried out a rich analysis of population migration majorly focusing on population re – distribution with respect to Kigezi and Bugishu. Most studies (Jones 2011; Taylor, 1999; Ackah & Medvedev 2012) have looked at the benefits of remittances in socio – economic development of the countries of origin without isolating for health status of the remittance receiving households. The study therefore, looks at the health status of remittance receiving households with evidence from the 2014 National Population and Housing Census.

Methodology

The study uses secondary data from the 2014 Uganda National Population and Housing Census (UNPHC). The study considered households that only received remittances either inform of either goods and money, goods only or money only.

The dependent variable of the study is deaths. In NPHC, the variable was captured by asking respondents “Did any deaths occur in this household in the last 12 months?” responses to this question were; 1 – Yes 2 – No. The study had to recode deaths to make it a dummy variable. This was done by recoding 1 as “Yes” and 0 for “No”.

The study considered 9 independent variables. Variables like rural – urban residence, gender, and disability status were used in the study as they were captured in the NPHC survey. On the other hand, variables like; marital status, region, Total children ever born, rooms used for sleeping, materials used for the floor and toilet facility were recoded first to be included in the study.

Results

Table 1: Frequency distribution of study variables

	Frequency	Percent
Rural urban residence		
Urban	197,295	30.6
Rural	447,632	69.4
Total	644,927	100
Gender		
Male	324,173	50.3
Female	320,754	49.7
Total	644,927	100
Region		
Kampala	39,972	6.2
Central	171,642	26.6
Eastern	195,108	30.3
North	118,558	18.4
West	119,647	18.6
Total	644,927	100
current Marital status		
Never Married	186,364	46.0
Currently Married	179,323	44.2
Ever Married	39,764	9.8
Total	405,451	100
Deaths		
Yes	68,773	11.6
No	525,661	88.4
Total	594,434	100
Total Children Ever Born		
No children	68,707	40.1
1 - 4	62,102	36.2
5 - 9	34,186	19.9
10+	6,434	3.8
Total	171,429	100
Rooms for sleeping		
one room	189,427	31.9
two and more	405,007	68.1
Total	594,434	100
Materials used for the floor		
Earth	366,171	61.6
Cement	194,897	32.8
Others	33,366	5.6

Total	594,434	100
Toilet facility		
Yes	541,685	91.1
No	52,749	8.9
Total	594,434	100
Disability Status		
With No Disability	483,646	86.9
With Disability	72,959	13.1
Total	556,605	100

Table 2: Deaths and background characteristics of remittance receiving households

Background Characteristics	Deaths (%)		Number	P - Value
	Yes	No		
Sex				
Male	11.4	88.6	293,018	0.000
Female	11.7	88.3	301,416	
Residence				
Urban	10.5	89.5	173,247	0.000
Rural	12.0	88.0	421,187	
Region				
Kampala	8.4	91.6	35,417	0.000
Central	10.6	89.4	155,532	
East	11.0	89.0	188,438	
North	15.8	84.2	105,612	
West	10.7	89.3	109,435	
Marital status				
Never married	11.9	88.1	186,364	0.000
Currently married	11.2	88.8	179,323	
Ever married	12.6	87.4	39,764	
Total children ever born				
No children	11.8	88.2	68,707	0.000
1 – 4	11.2	88.8	62,102	
5 – 9	12.1	87.9	34,186	
10+	13.9	86.1	6,434	
Rooms used for sleeping				
One room	10.3	89.8	189,427	0.000
Two and more	12.2	87.8	405,007	
Materials used				
Earth	12.0	88.0	366,171	0.000
Cement	10.7	89.3	194,897	
Others	11.4	88.6	33,366	
Toilet facility				
Yes	11.4	88.6	541,685	0.000
No	13.4	86.6	52,749	
Disability status				
With no disability	3 11.5	88.5	483,646	0.000
With Disability	12.6	87.4	72,959	

Table 3: Predictors of death of remittance receiving households

Variable	Odds ratio	P - value	95% confidence interval
Deaths			
Region (ref=Kampala)			
Central	1.3	0.000	1.2 – 1.4
East	1.3	0.000	1.2 – 1.4
North	2.0	0.000	1.9 – 2.2
West	1.3	0.000	1.2 – 1.4
Residence (ref = Urban)			
Rural	1.1	0.000	1.0 – 1.1
Marital status (ref = Never married)			
Currently married	0.9	0.000	0.8 – 0.9
Ever married	1.1	0.000	1.0 – 1.2
Total children ever born (ref = No children)			
1 – 4	1.1	0.038	1.0 – 1.1
5 – 9	1.1	0.023	1.0 – 1.1
10+	1.2	0.000	1.1 – 1.4
Disability status (ref = with no disability)			
With disability	1.1	0.005	1.1 – 1.1
Number of rooms used for sleeping (ref = One room)			
Two and more rooms	1.2	0.000	1.2 – 1.2
Material used for the floor (ref = Earth)			
Cement	1.0	0.175	0.9 – 1.0
Others	1.1	0.034	1.0 – 1.1
Toilet facility (ref = Yes)			
No	1.0	0.397	1.0 – 1.1