

Timeline

February-November 2020

Study Type

Quasi-experimental Analysis

Article Link

<https://www.aighd.org/project/financial-health-diaries-evaluation-study/>

Research Implemented by IPA

No

Using Weekly Financial and Health Diaries to Track Health and Income Effects of the COVID-19 Outbreak and Government Response Measures in Rural Kenya

Researchers

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Abstract

This research assesses how low-income households in rural Kenya coped with the immediate economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It uses granular financial data from weekly household interviews covering six weeks before the first case was detected in Kenya to five weeks after during which various containment measures were implemented. Based on household-level fixed-effects regressions, our results suggest that income from work decreased with almost one-third and income from gifts and remittances reduced by more than one-third after the start of the pandemic. Nevertheless, household expenditures on food remained at pre-COVID levels. We do not find evidence that households coped with reduced income through increased borrowing, selling assets or withdrawing savings. Instead, they gave out less gifts and remittances themselves, lent less money to others and postponed loan repayments. Moreover, they significantly reduced expenditures on schooling and transportation, in line with the school closures and travel restrictions. Thus, despite their affected livelihoods, households managed to keep food expenditures at par, but this came at the cost of reduced informal risk-sharing and social support between households.

Project Outcomes of Interest

Household income, household expenditures, coping strategies, health episodes, health care utilization

Partners

Amref Health Africa, PharmAccess Foundation International

Link to Results

[Link to the working paper](#)

Impact Goals

- Build resilience and protect the financial health of families and individuals
- Improve social-safety net responses
- Keep children safe, healthy, and learning

Project Data Collection Mode

- CATI (Computer-assisted telephone interviewing)

Results Status

Results