

Timeline

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<https://www.socialsciregistry.org/trials/1191>

Research Implemented by IPA

Yes

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The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Mental Health in Low and Middle Income Countries

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Working Paper

Policy brief
KEN-20662 / September 2020

Edward Andrew Miguel, Johannes Haushofer, Michael Walker,
and Dennis Egger



Economic activity and living standards during the COVID-19 pandemic

Evidence from rural Kenya



In brief

- Detailed quantitative evidence on the evolution of economic outcomes during the COVID-19 health crisis in low-income countries remains scarce.
- This study examines the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns using phone surveys from a representative sample of 11,000 households and 5,000 businesses in one of the poorest regions in Kenya.
- Surveys started early in the pandemic, and are designed to be representative over time, allowing us to trace out dynamics in core economic quantities such as expenditure, income, total sales, prices and local GDP.
- The findings suggest a precipitous drop in economic activity and analogous negative impacts on household living standards. While households have employed numerous coping strategies, government and NGO support is not sufficiently large to offset losses.

This project was funded by IGC.

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Policy Brief

Understanding Economic Outcomes and Resilience to COVID-19: Evidence from the Kenya Life Panel Survey

Researchers

[Edward Miguel](#), [Joan Hamory Hicks](#), [Michael Walker](#)

Abstract

COVID-19 is causing major health and economic challenges for low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The Kenya Life Panel Survey (KLPS) is uniquely situated to address numerous key questions about the effects of the pandemic. The KLPS is a 20-year longitudinal survey on health, educational, nutritional, demographic, social, and labor market outcomes among a sample of thousands of Kenyans who were participants in one or more randomized health,

skills training, and financial capital interventions during childhood and adolescence, and collects intergenerational data on their children. Researchers are adding a phone survey round to KLPS to track COVID-19 exposure, knowledge and coping mechanisms (including migration); measure downstream long-term effects of adolescent interventions on responses; and determine how crisis experiences affect subsequent outcomes for adults and children. Researchers are estimating effects using the original experiments, and spatial and temporal variation in survey timing and COVID-19 intensity and policies across Kenya.

Funding for this project was provided by the UK Department for International Development, awarded through IPA's Peace & Recovery Program.

Project Outcomes of Interest

Migration and travel patterns; number of in-person contacts; economic effects, including earnings, business closure/job loss, interhousehold transfers, consumption and food security; physical and mental health (Including COVID-19 symptoms); child learning opportunities; knowledge of COVID-19 mitigation strategies; access to health care services; select social and political attitudes

Partners

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Impact Goals

- Build resilience and protect the financial health of families and individuals
- Build resilient and adaptable businesses and employment opportunities
- Keep children safe, healthy, and learning
- Promote peace and safety, and improve humanitarian response
- Reduce COVID-19 transmission rates

Project Data Collection Mode

- CATI (Computer-assisted telephone interviewing)

Link to Pre-Registration

<https://www.socialscienceregistry.org/trials/1191>

Link to Public Data

https://www.kenyacovidtracker.org/kips_public.html

Results Status

No Results Yet