Access to health and agricultural extension services

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Diets, Affordability and Policy in Ethiopia:
From Evidence to Action

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Introduction

- Ethiopia’s Food and Nutrition Policy:
  
  “Improve availability and accessibility of adequate food to all Ethiopians at all times”

  “Access to quality and equitable nutrition and nutrition smart health services to all Ethiopians at all times in all settings”

- To achieve objectives, extension agents envisioned to have major role to deliver these different services

- If done well, they can have major impact
Extension in Ethiopia

- One of the most-dense extension services in the world
  - 72,000 Development Agents (DAs) – 43 DAs per 10,000 farm households
  - 42,000 Health Extension Workers (HEW) – 2 HEW per 5,000 individuals

- Research question:
  - Food and Nutrition Policy stresses importance of reaching all Ethiopians
  - Not clear how most remote rural households are served by these extension services
Remoteness matters for nutritional outcomes

Remoteness negatively affects household diet diversity and food consumption

Source: Headey et al, 2018; DHS data
Remote farmers within kebeles and remote kebeles less exposed to DA services

Less likelihood of extension exposure

- DA advice on type of crop
- DA advice on type seed
- DA advice on type fertilizer
- Plot visited by DA

% for Remotest households (tercile) in kebele and Remotest kebele (tercile) in woreda
Remoteness and DAs

*Less DAs and lower effort by DAs in remote kebeles*

- Number of DAs per kebele
- Number of hours worked per week
Remoteness and DAs

*DAs in remote kebeles: less experience and worse test scores*

- Experience
- Test scores
Remoteness and HEWs

HEW exposure don’t vary by remoteness of kebele. However, within the kebeles, households most remote from health posts are less exposed to HEW services.

Less likelihood of extension exposure

- Received antenatal care
- HEW visited during pregnancy
- Has met with HEW
- Knows HEW

Remotest households (tercile) in kebele
Remoteness and HEWs

No difference in number of HEWs and effort by remoteness

- Number of HEW per kebele
- Number of hours worked per week
Conclusions

- Remoteness matters, for nutritional outcomes and for service delivery
- Most remote households in each kebele less exposed to extension services, health as well as agriculture
- While extension delivery worse in most remote kebeles for DAs, this is not the case for HEWs

Implications:
1. Additional justification in further investments in rural roads
2. Better incentives and services required for those extension agents willing to locate in more remote areas
Reference


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