



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

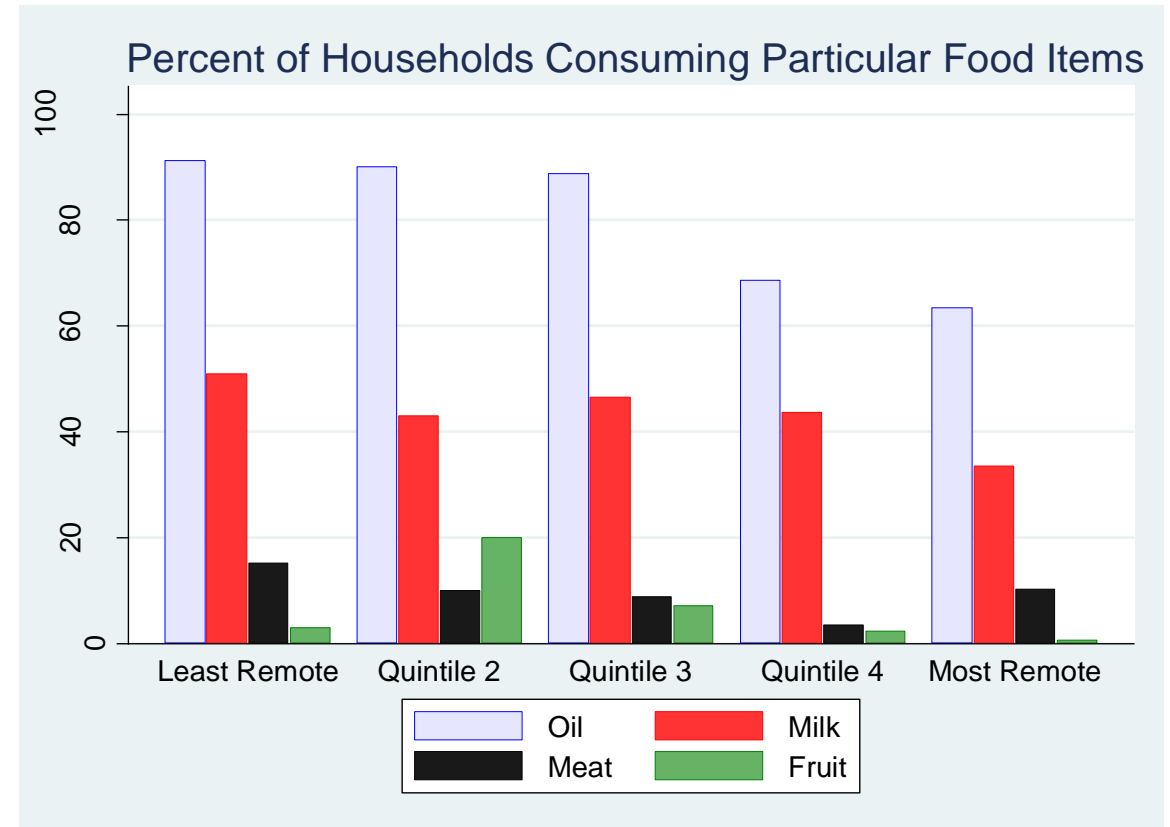
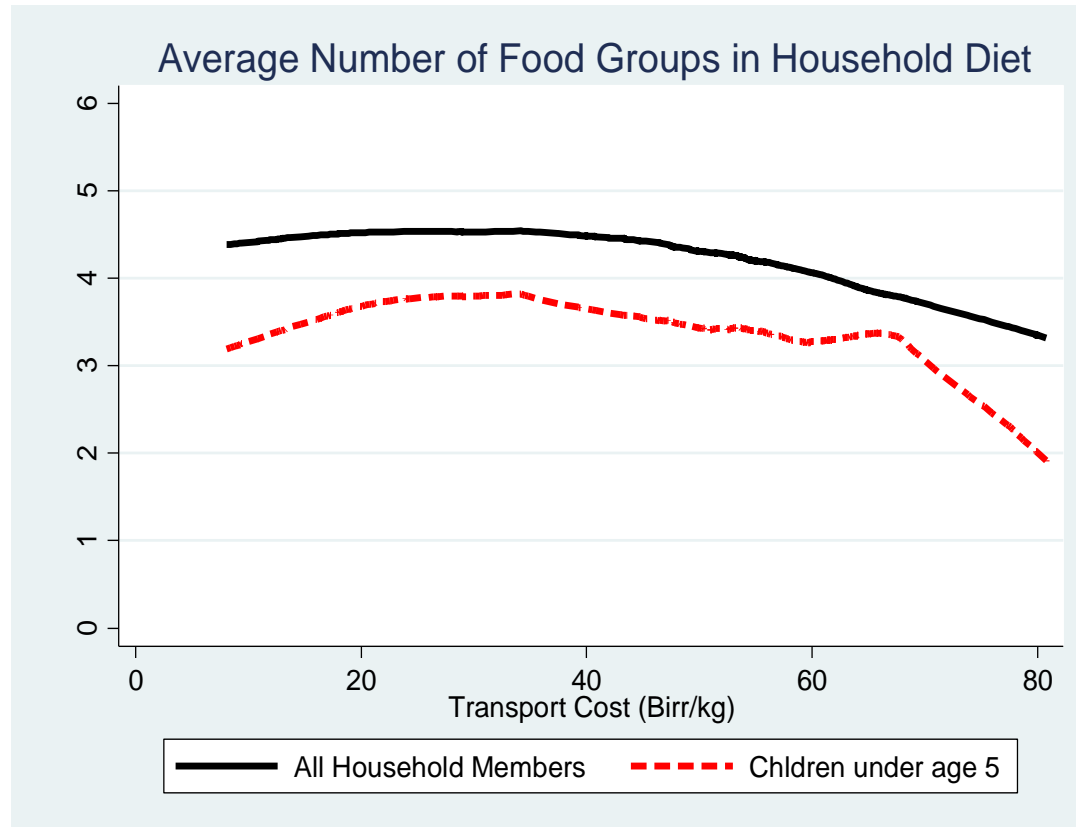
- Ethiopia's Food and Nutrition Policy:
 - “Improve availability and accessibility of adequate food to all Ethiopians at all times”
 - “Access to quality and equitable nutrition and nutrition smart health services to all Ethiopians at all times in all settings”
- To achieve objectives, extension agents 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

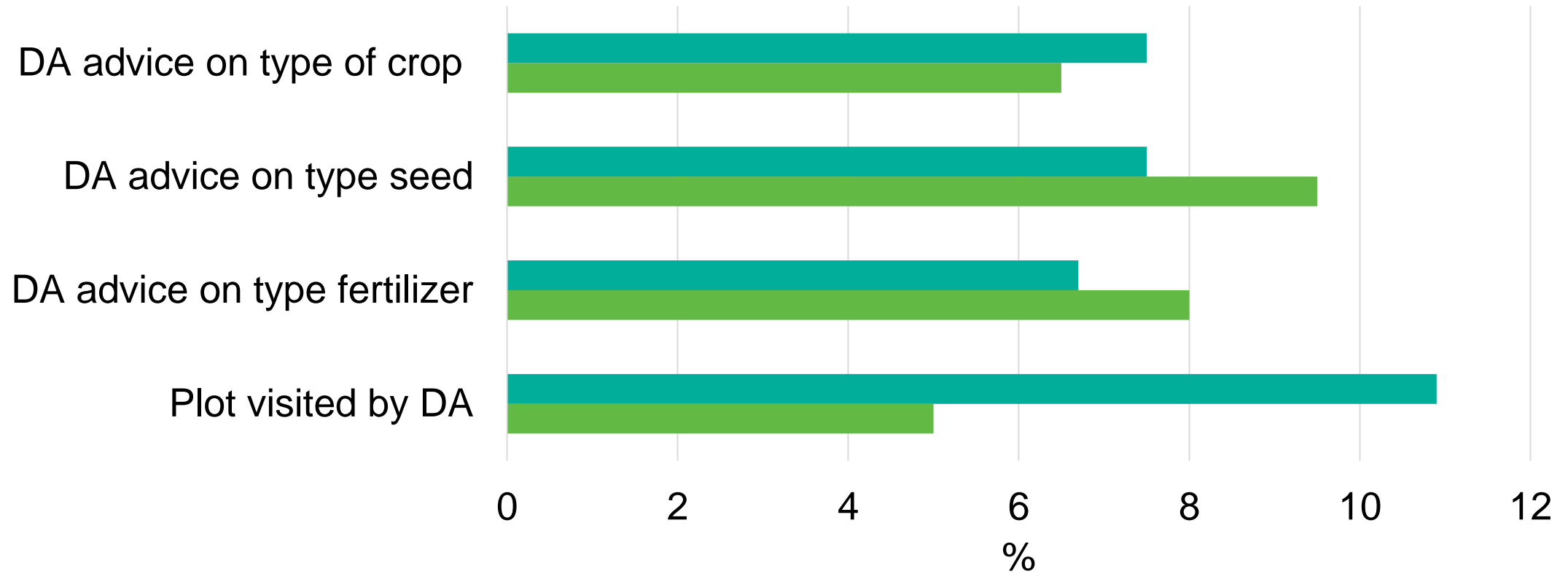


Source: Headey et al, 2018; DHS data

Remoteness and DAs

Remote farmers within kebeles and remote kebeles less exposed to DA services

Less likelihood of extension exposure



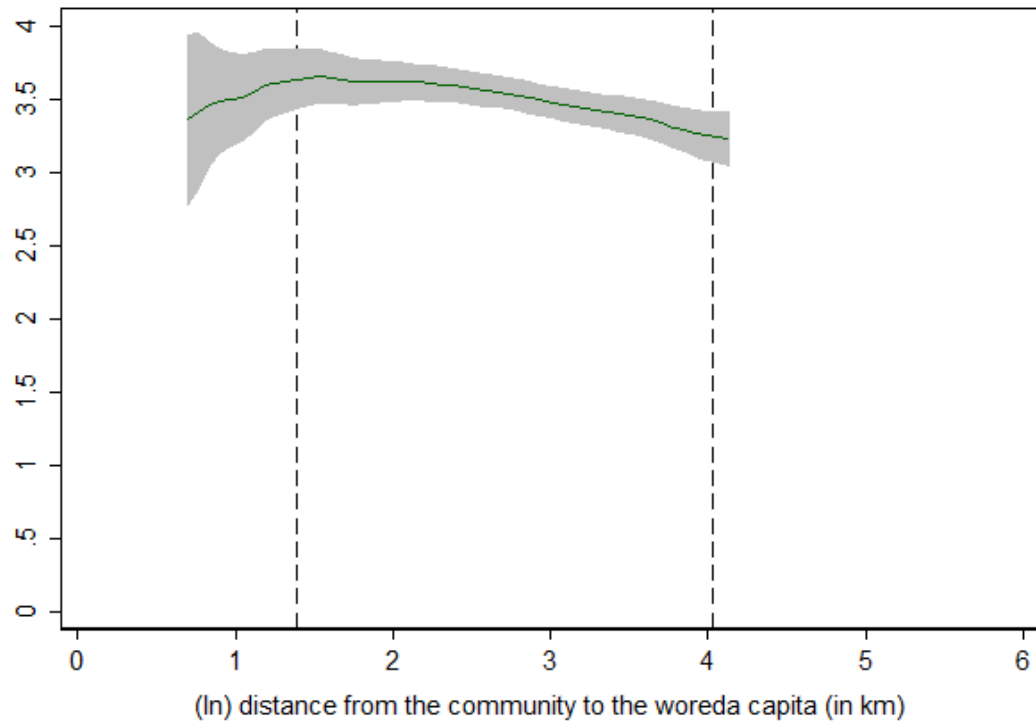
■ Remotest households (tercile) in kebele ■ Remotest kebele (tercile) in woreda



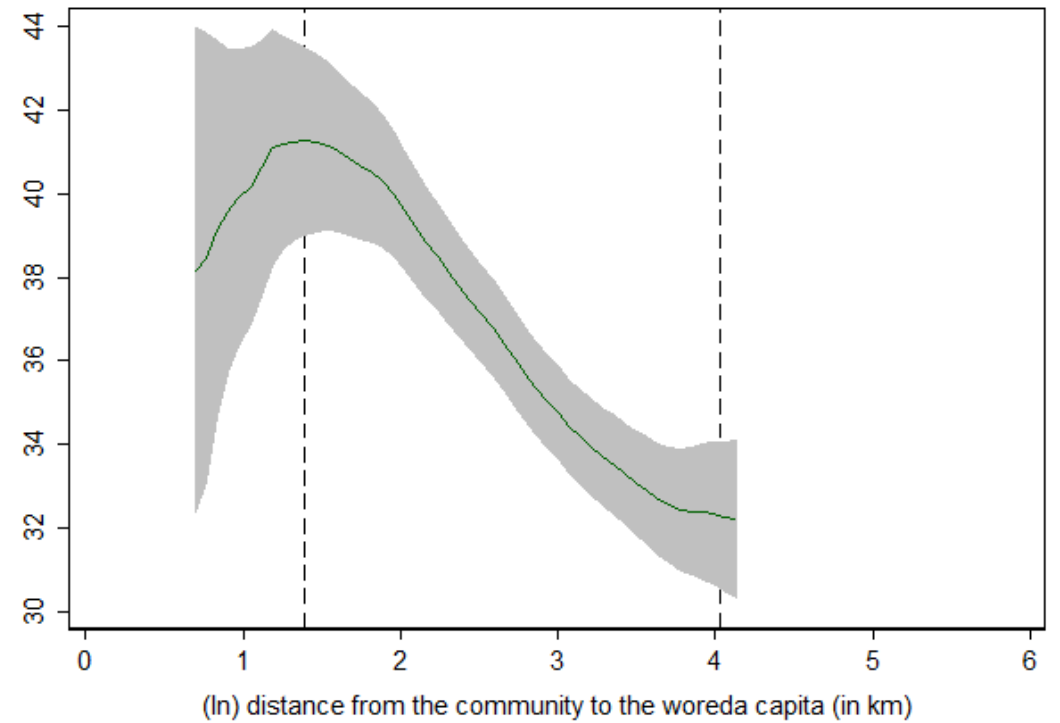
Remoteness and DAs

Less DAs and lower effort by DAs in remote kebeles

- Number of DAs per kebele



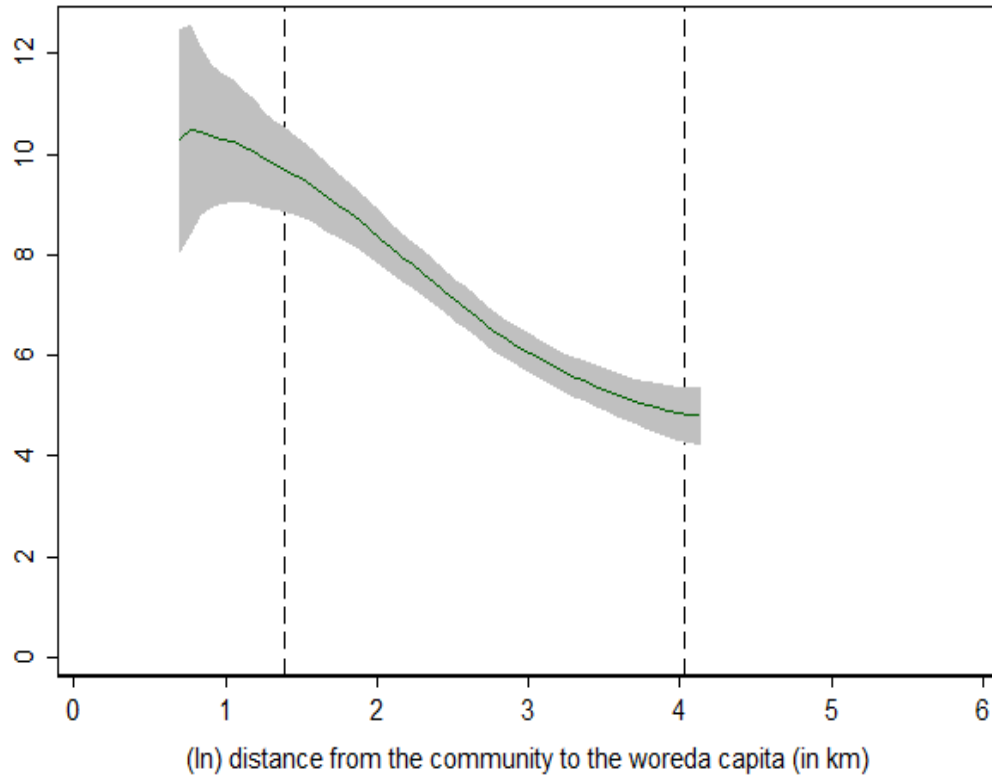
- Number of hours worked per week



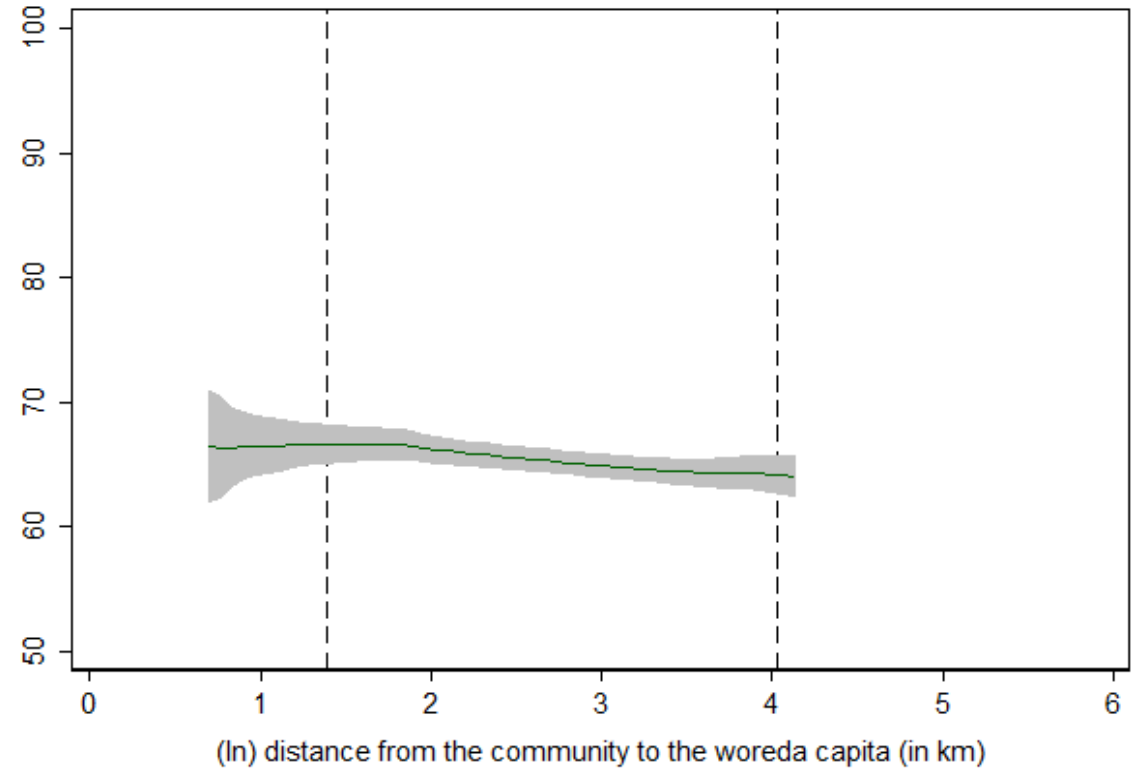
Remoteness and DAs

DAs in remote kebeles: less experience and worse test scores

■ Experience



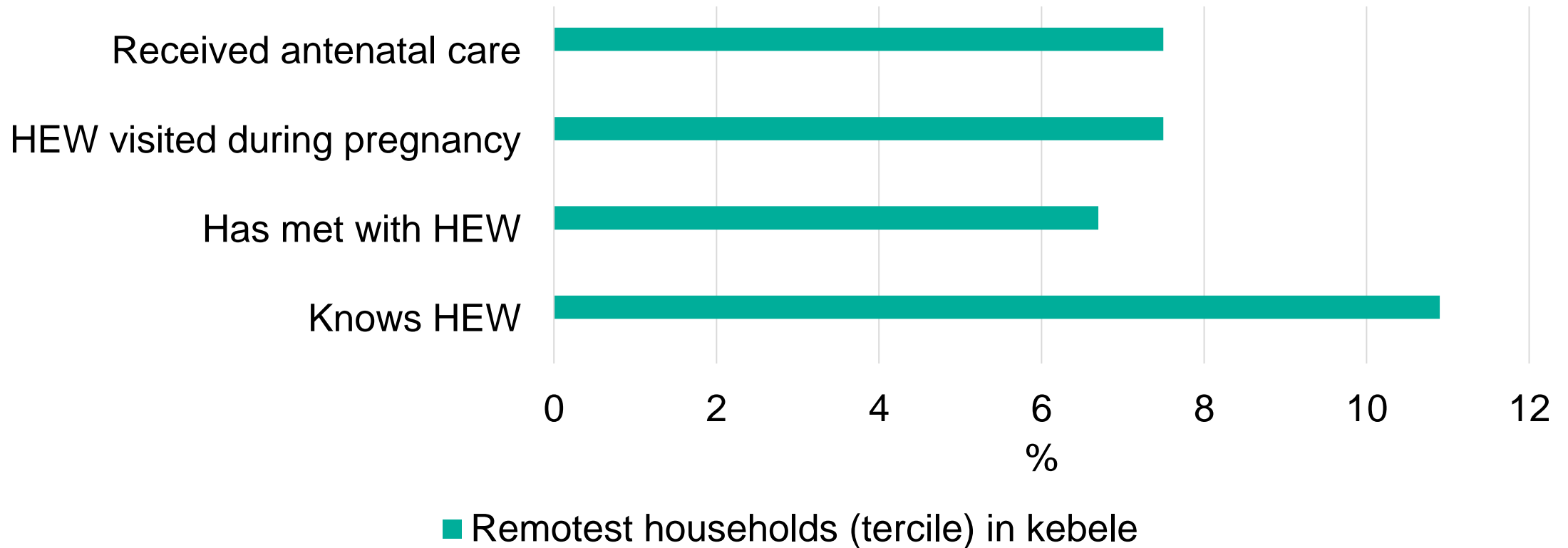
■ Test scores



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

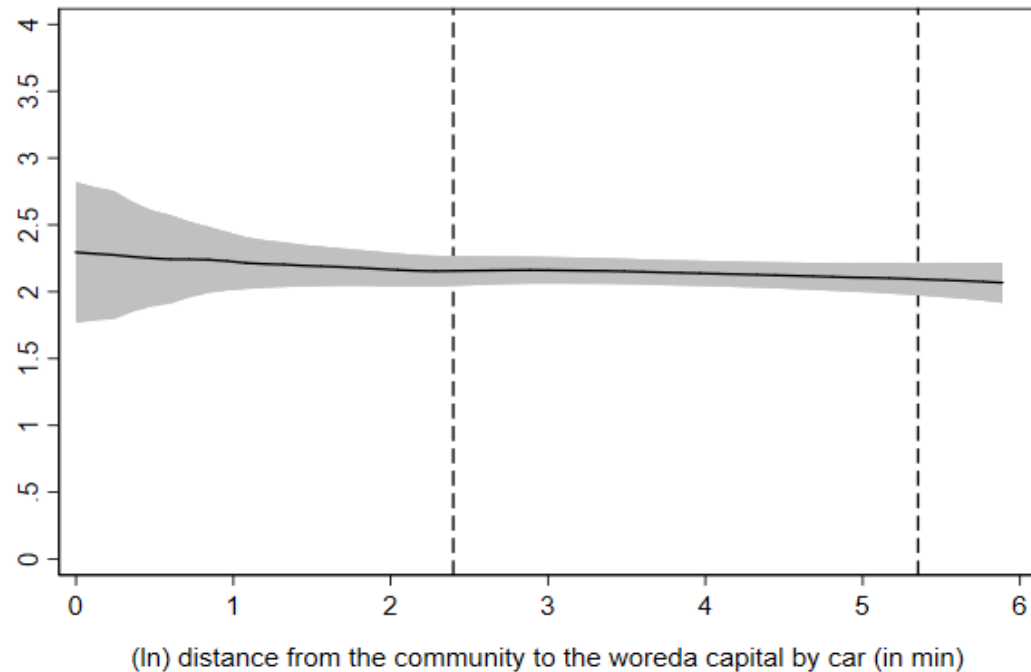
Less likelihood of extension exposure



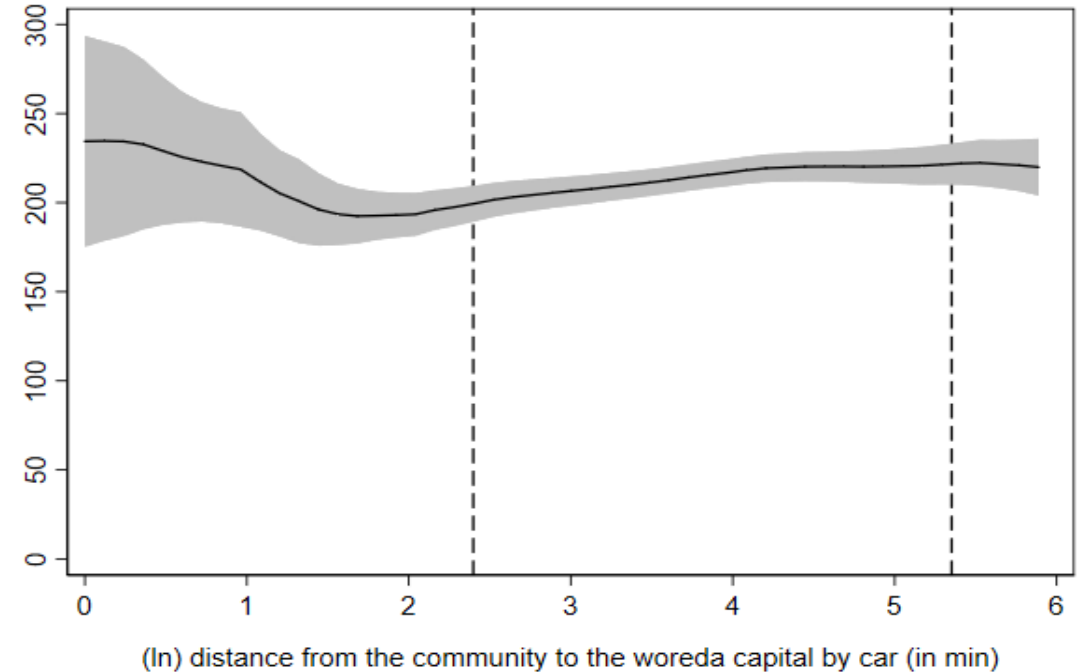
Remoteness and HEWs

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

Abate, Gashaw T.; Dereje, Mekdim; Hirvonen, Kalle; and Minten, Bart. 2019. Geography of public service delivery in rural Ethiopia. *ESSP Working Paper 133*. Washington, DC and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Policy Studies Institute.

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