

Resilience in Maternal and Child Nutrition Outcomes in A Refugee-Hosting Community in Cameroon

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Abstract

Refugees are also perceived as a burden to their host communities, and nutrition insecurity could be a vital space of competition. We have a tendency to explore the connection between exile presence and a number community's resilience in nutrition outcomes in Cameroon. We have a tendency to additionally tested an analytical framework for evaluating community resilience throughout shocks. We have a tendency to used information from perennial cross-sectional Demographic and Health Surveys in Cameroon (2004 and 2011), information on exile movement, and information on extreme climatically events, epidemics, and conflicts from multiple sources. Outcome variables were maternal weedy, maternal anemia, and kid weedy, anaemia, aerobatics and wasting. The exposure variable was residence inside a locality during which refugees settled. we have a tendency to use a genetic matching rule to pick controls from the remainder of the country when excluding areas experiencing synchronal shocks. We have a tendency to use a difference-in-differences analysis to match outcomes between the exposed and management areas. The 2004 survey comprised ten,656 girls and eight,125 youngsters, whereas the 2011 survey comprised fifteen,426 girls and eleven,732 youngsters. Except for anaemia that showed a decreasing trend in each the refugee-hosting community and therefore the remainder of the country, all different indicators (wasting, weedy and stunting) showed increasing trends within the refugee-hosting community however decreasing trends within the remainder of the country. The matched management cluster showed an analogous trend of decreasing trend for all the symptoms.

Keywords: Resilience; Nutrition outcomes; Refugee-hosting community; Cameroon

Introduction

Emerging literature addresses the impacts of refugees on host communities, notably on the competition for restricted resources, labour markets and trade, Environmental and infrastructural degradation, Sickness propagation, or on violence and crime. These impacts might have direct and indirect consequences for nutrition security in host communities. The rising rate of climatical and conflict-related disasters is increasing the quantity of displaced persons. With over thirty million refugees nowadays (and the quantity rising steady in recent years) [1], however host communities deal with refugees is of utmost importance to researchers, policymakers and therefore the communities involved. As refugees escape maltreatment and conflict, typically let alone their livelihoods, histories, aspirations and dreams to survive elsewhere at the mercy of well-wishers and mandated organisations, they attract additional attention. Consequently, most studies tend to specialise in the displaced. The host communities, in most cases, whereas typically fragile in many ways, area unit less studied. Any extra stress on resources in these fragile communities will produce tension between the refugees and their hosts. making certain resilience to nutrition insecurity within the host community could be a vital step toward up overall outcomes for each refugees and hosts and promoting the mixing of refugees into communities [2]. Contrary to this specialise in the issues caused by mass displacement and migration, refugees will absolutely impact host communities. we have a tendency to showed in a very previous study, during which we have a tendency to analysed the impact of refugees on the host's primary attention system in Cameroon, that the presence of refugees had no prejudicial effects on maternal and kid primary attention indicators. For the foremost half, these indicators improved [3]. In different studies that examined social science, money aid to refugees created positive financial gain spillovers for hosts' businesses and households. However, these edges were unevenly distributed among the native population—locals with higher ex-ante access to resources, education, and political connections

were additional probably to learn from the arrival of refugees, whereas the deprived became progressively vulnerable . sturdy analyses of the various dimensions of the impact of refugees on their host population can yield a far better image of however refugees have an effect on their host communities. Such will show area unitas wherever enhancements are required and inform policy and intervention ways to boost outcomes for each teams [4]. Importantly, analyses of this nature, assessing the results of AN exposure (such as hosting refugees, further as different shocks like droughts, floods, epidemics, etc.) on a community, might shed lightweight on effective ways for activity resilience as an outcome indicator. In recent years, resilience in food security has been a subject of educational dialogue and policy interest, albeit with very little resolution. One acceptable definition of resilience is that the capability over time of someone, household, or different mixture units to avoid financial condition within the face of assorted stressors and therefore the wake of a myriad of shocks. specialists take into account AN entity resilient if that capability is maintained high over time. This definition captures the notion of resilience in food security [5]. we have a tendency to broaden this read to encapsulate the additional encompassing thought of nutrition security, wherever nutrition security implies food security, and food security, in turn, suggests that nutrient security [6-7]. Measuring the parts of resilience might need completely different analytic approaches. For nutrition outcomes, the goal remains to trace the flexibility of communities, households, or people to take care of

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(or improve) baseline nutrition levels over time within the face of stressors and shocks. A difference-in-differences approach provides a logical, analytical framework for mistreatment perennial cross-sectional empirical information to isolate the results of exposures over time [8]. once combined with correct matching techniques to form counterfactuals, results from such analyses will approximate those of a quasi-experiment [9]. This approach offers how forward once the question is that if communities hosting refugees will maintain baseline levels of nutrition outcomes over time, albeit suboptimal, for end variables conducive to nutrition security. A necessary condition for this approach is that the availability of unexposed communities, households or people comparable in necessary ways that to the exposed teams [10].

In this study, we have a tendency to investigated the impact of refugees on the resilience in nutrition outcomes of a refugee-hosting community in Cameroon. Specifically, we have a tendency to explored effects on

- (i) maternal weedy,
- (ii) maternal anaemia,
- (iii) kid wasting;
- (iv) kid stunting;
- (v) kid underweight;
- (vi) kid anaemia.

This study centered on the resilience in maternal and kid nutrition outcomes of a refugee-hosting community in Cameroon. It shows overall resilience in maternal and kid nutrition outcomes following the arrival of the many refugees within the hosting community. once comparison the 2004 and 2011 information, except for anaemia that showed a decreasing trend, all the opposite indicators (wasting, weedy ANd stunting) showed an initial increasing trend within the exile hosting community however a decreasing trend within the remainder of the country. we have a tendency to ascertained an analogous trend within the management cluster when matching [11]. However, we have a tendency to found no association between changes within the prevalence of maternal weedy, maternal anaemia, kid weedy, kid anaemia, kid wasting, kid aerobatics and therefore the presence of refugees. These findings show resilience in nutrition outcomes because the ability to take care of (or improve) baseline nutrition levels over time within the face of shocks, during this case, the sharp arrival of the many refugees in a very community. Our approach to excluding areas of synchronal shocks and choosing properly matched controls for our difference-in-differences model offers how of understanding and estimating resilience. After excluding the regions exposed to different shocks and matching on elite covariates, the impact sizes for nutrition outcomes were tiny and pointed in several directions. In youngsters, the prevalence of aerobatics inflated within the exile hosting community (8%), whereas the prevalence of anaemia (6%) minimized. In women, there was no amendment within the prevalence of anaemia however a modest increase in weedy (4%). once comparison these estimates to those obtained from controls elite while not excluding areas of inflated shock, the variation in purpose estimates and precisions indicates the results' importance and sensitivity to synchronal shocks. analytic a shock event is particularly necessary for estimating resilience in settings wherever multiple shocks area unit commonplace [12]. Comparable studies have ascertained the impact of refugees on host communities in each directions. Gengo and colleagues (2020) ascertained improved caloric intake within the Kakuma refugee-hosting community

compared to different sites with varied levels of development in Turkana County in African country. The Kakuma exile-hosting community hosts one among the world's largest refugee camps with 160000 refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, and therefore the Democratic Republic of Congo. Increased nutrition outcomes are ascribed to raised access to cereals through the exile trade networks and inflated employment within the exile host with the arrival of refugees. On the opposite hand, food insecurity has been ascertained within the exile hosting community in Nimba, Liberia, that hosted refugees from shelter d'Ivoire when the 2010 post-election unrest. Rising food costs with the arrival of refugees area unit a conducive issue. within the case of wandering pastoralist hosts, United Nations agency rely on pasture and water for survival, environmental destruction and erosion caused by exile settlement are related to food insecurity. One crucial angle to contemplate once exploring the impact of refugees on host communities is whether or not such impacts rely on wherever the refugees live. Refugees might sleep in or out of camps, which means completely different interactions with the community and, therefore completely different effects. In our case, we have a tendency to had a mixture of camped and out-of-camp refugees, with most refugees living out of the camps, once refugees sleep in camps, this could imply AN intense intervention and fewer interaction between the refugees and hosts. Conversely, once refugees keep out of camps, there's probably additional interaction and exchange of resources. The latter might make a case for our ascertained resilience in nutrition outcomes [13]. The impact of refugees on food and nutrition insecurity isn't typically unfold equally among the hosts, though not explored within the current study, we have a tendency to should acknowledge the importance of this inequity. Gender, age, socioeconomic standing, and nature of the host-refugee relationship all have an effect on the unfold of advantages and burdens. Hosts with higher access to education, resources, and power profit additional, whereas the deprived area unit even any marginalised. as an example, the rise in food costs within the early stages once refugees arrive might profit farmers with food surpluses. In distinction, subsistence farmers and landless labourers area unit typically forced to shop for at higher costs. Not amazingly, some relief programs have ascertained the foremost vulnerable hosts gift for food rations aboard the refugees. an analogous development is ascertained once well endowed native food provides drive down native food costs, with the acquainted rational motive impact of food aid on native food production. The Khartoum exile conference of 1982 noted that the Ugandan refugees in South Sudan had overgrown cassava to drive down costs in Juba. whereas this benefited the urban customers, the native poor Sudanese couldn't get additional from their very little surpluses [14-15].

Conclusion

Our findings demonstrate that maternal and kid nutrition insecurity within the hosting community doesn't amendment as several refugees settle in a locality, providing proof of resilience in these communities. This analysis centered on one exile web site in Cameroon and explored solely a couple of indicators for nutrition security. Analyses, together with additional indicators in varied settings, area unit needed to assess the strength of those findings. withal, our study sheds lightweight on the impact of refugees on communities from a nutrition perspective. It suggests proof refuting the common perception of refugees as illegitimate interlopers United Nations agency negatively impact their hosting community.

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