



## **EMERGING ECONOMIES N. 11 | DICEMBRE 2018**

*Edited by Chiara Candelise, University of Turin and OEET*

### **QUESTIONI DI GENERE E SVILUPPO UMANO. ALTRI CONTRIBUTI DALLA XX AISSEC CONFERENCE**

*di Chiara Candelise, Università di Torino e OEET*

Le ultime due newsletter “Emerging Economies” del 2018 (Novembre e Dicembre 2018) si sono concentrate su una selezione di contributi di ricerca presentati alla recente XXth Scientific Conference della Italian Association for the Study of Comparative Economic Systems (AISSEC) (<https://www.osservatorio-economie-emergenti-torino.it/our-activities/188-xx-aissec-conference-programme-available.html>), tenutasi in Ottobre 2018 presso il Collegio Carlo Alberto, Torino. Il focus della conferenza è stato studi comparati di sistemi economici e per le due newsletter sono stati selezionati i contributi della conferenza più esplicitamente dedicati alle economie emergenti e ai paesi in via di sviluppo.

La precedente newsletter, “Emerging Economies” N. 10 di Novembre 2018, ha presentato una prospettiva macroeconomica con contributi su tematiche di crescita, disuguaglianza e sviluppo sostenibile. Questa newsletter, “Emerging Economies” N. 11 di Dicembre 2018, presenta invece tre studi, anche questi dedicati alle economie emergenti e ai paesi in via di sviluppo, ma con approccio microeconomico su questioni di genere e di sviluppo umano.

Il primo contributo, di V. Molini, F. Alfani, A. Dabalén e P. Fisker, presenta uno studio della vulnerabilità alla malnutrizione che esamina l’impatto di siccità sulla salute infantile nel Sahel belt delle drylands dell’Africa Occidentale. Lo studio presenta risultati in termini di percentuale della popolazione infantile a rischio di malnutrizione per cinque paesi (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria e Senegal) e dimostra come la vulnerabilità alla malnutrizione sia più diffusa che la malnutrizione stessa. A seguire, uno studio di G. Pasini, A. Gebremarian e E. Lodigiani dimostra gli impatti positivi dell’Ethiopia Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) (implementato dal governo dell’Etiopia nel 2005/06 come supporto a famiglie rurali) sulle aspirazioni educative dei bambini. Infine Astrig T’asgian presenta i risultati di una field survey in Africa Occidentale sull’impatto del coinvolgimento delle donne in attività lavorative individuali o di gruppo. Lo studio dimostra come le organizzazioni produttive femminili hanno non solo una funzione sociale (assistenza, solidarietà, scambi di idee), ma sono anche uno strumento di empowerment psicologico ed economico per donne in povertà.

# **GENDER ISSUES AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE XX AISSEC CONFERENCE**

*by Chiara Candelise, Università di Torino e OEET*

The last two issues of the newsletter “Emerging Economies” (November and December 2018) present contributions from the latest XXth Scientific Conference of the Italian Association for the Study of Comparative Economic Systems (AISSEC) (<https://www.osservatorio-economico-emergenti-torino.it/our-activities/188-xx-aissec-conference-programme-available.html>), held in October 2018 at the Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin. The conference focus has been on the comparison of economic systems and, for the purpose of the two newsletters, contributions have been selected among those dealing more explicitly with emerging and developing countries.

The previous newsletter, “Emerging Economies” N. 10 of November 2018, have presented a macroeconomic perspective with an overview of selected research articles addressing growth, inequality and sustainable development. The current newsletter, “Emerging Economies” N. 11 of December 2018, presents instead three studies, dedicated to emerging and developing economies, but adopting a more microeconomic approach on gender issues and human development.

The first contribution, by V. Molini, F. Alfani, A. Dabalén and P. Fisker, presents a framework for understanding and analysing vulnerability to malnutrition, by examining the impact on child health of rainfall shocks of the Sahel belt of the West African drylands. The study shows results in terms of the fraction of children who are stunted and underweight for five countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal). It also finds that vulnerability to malnutrition is considerably more widespread than actual malnutrition. Then G. Pasini, A. Gebremariam and E. Lodigiani evaluate the impacts of the Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), launched by the government of Ethiopia in 2005/06 to support food insecure rural households, on children's educational aspirations. The study shows significant and positive impacts of PSNP on aspirations and suggests that the program lifts up children's educational aspirations. Finally, Astrig Tasgian presents the evidence from field surveys carried out in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) on women's activities exercised individually or in groups. It shows how female producer organizations do not only have a social function (mutual assistance, solidarity, exchange of ideas), but can also be a tool for poor women psychological and economic empowerment, especially in rural areas.

## VULNERABILITY AND MALNUTRITION IN WEST AFRICA SAHEL

*By V. Molini, World Bank; F. Alfani, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); A. Dabalen, World Bank; P. Fisker, University of Copenhagen, Changing Disaster*

A large literature has documented how households in low income settings suffer short and long run welfare losses from uninsured risk, especially in rural settings where agricultural production risk is prevalent and markets are thin or non-existent. While the short run welfare losses are bad enough, it is now widely acknowledged that the long run losses which typically manifest in foregone investments – in human capital, enterprises, high yielding crops, and so on – are especially damaging.

The concept of vulnerability has gained currency in recent studies of well-being because the static analysis of poverty has been found to be too limiting in capturing the dynamic reality of poor populations: focusing only on the poor leaves out a significant portion of the population who live at a constant risk of becoming poor. Vulnerability is an ex-ante statement about future poverty, before the veil is lifted and the uncertainty is replaced by the knowledge of the actual facts.

However, it has proven a lot easier to define vulnerability conceptually than to measure it. Empirically, since it is a prediction about the future, the ideal data sets – which would involve panel data over several years for each individual (or household) and shocks s/he experienced, responses to the shocks, and the outcomes (e.g. welfare) - rarely exist. Therefore, alternative models that exploit the most commonly available data sets have been proposed in the literature.

The study examines vulnerability to malnutrition induced by rainfall shocks in the Sahel belt of the West African drylands. Five countries are included in the study: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. For Ghana and Nigeria, only territories in the north of these countries lie in the Sahel belt, so the statistics and evidence on welfare losses will apply to households resident in those areas.

First, we estimate the impact of shocks on child health using spatial and historical variation of a measure of drought that is not affected by anthropogenic activities. Next we use the historical and spatial distribution of drought to obtain a distribution of the “expected loss”. This is obtained by multiplying the average effect of a shock with values of our drought measure for each cluster and point in time. This allows us to evaluate the probability that a child in a given location will be malnourished in a hypothetical future period.

The results are shown in Table 4a and 4b. As a point of reference, the tables also show the fraction of children who are stunted and underweight. Roughly 20% of the children ages 1-3 in the West African Sahel belt are stunted and the same figure applies to underweight. The highest shares of children with nutritional deficiencies are found in Northern Nigeria, Northern Ghana and Mali. Senegal has the lowest and the malnutrition rates are lower in urban areas than in rural areas as we would expect.

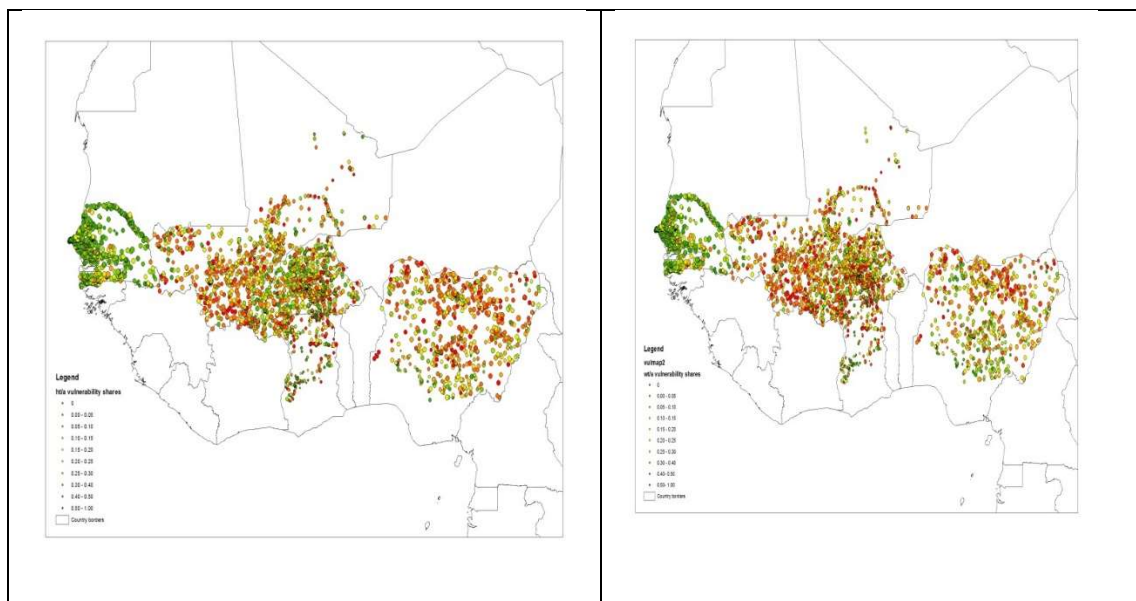
We find that vulnerability to malnutrition is considerably more widespread than actual malnutrition. For instance, around a third of the child population faces a 50% risk of becoming stunted in the near future compared to the 20% who are already stunted. For underweight the proportion increases to 35%. The places with the largest difference between vulnerability and actual malnutrition are Northern Nigeria for stunting (24 percentage points) and Burkina Faso for underweight (28 percentage points).

**Table 1: Actual and vulnerable to underweight and stunting**

	Underweight	Stunted	Underweight	Stunted
	Actual		Vulnerable (50% risk)	
Full sample	0.197	0.190	0.355	0.326
Burkina Faso	0.219	0.179	0.494	0.364
Ghana	0.251	0.245	0.359	0.301
Mali	0.256	0.237	0.320	0.269
Nigeria	0.527	0.286	0.407	0.297
Senegal	0.152	0.054	0.182	0.062

Finally, we compute the share of the children in each cluster who can be considered vulnerable and plot the results on the map. Figure 10 is a vulnerability map, or cluster level vulnerability estimates. The vulnerability rates range from zero to almost 100%, the latter denoted by red dots. As is evident from the map, and as the tables above show, Senegal has the lowest vulnerability, while the northern Sahel belt – Burkina and Mali – has a substantially higher number of clusters with high vulnerability. Northern Nigeria also has a large number of clusters with high levels of vulnerability.

**Figure 1: The cluster level vulnerability maps, stunting (left) and underweight (right)**



# THE IMPACT OF ETHIOPIAN PRODUCTIVE SAFETY-NET PROGRAM ON CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

*By G. Pasini, Ca' Foscari, University of Venezia; A. Gebremarian, Ca' Foscari, University of Venezia; E. Lodigiani, University of Padua, Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano, University of Milan*

Aspirations can be thought of as reference points where individuals aim to achieve and play an important role in the decision-making process of individuals. Children's educational aspirations are important predictors of educational attainment and of occupational success, and expected to shape long-term outcomes such as labour market characteristics. However, aspirations can be affected by whether an individual is poor or rich. Studies document that though the poor and the rich face the same behavioural bias, poverty may exacerbate the behavioural bias and may lead to aspiration failure. Safety-net programs in developing countries not only smooth consumption, but also bring households out of the chronic poverty. It is, therefore, appealing to explore whether the introduction of large-scale safety-net programs affect children's educational aspirations.

This paper evaluates the impacts of the Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), launched by the government of Ethiopia in 2005/06 to support food insecure rural households, on children's educational aspirations.

We use a longitudinal data obtained from Young Lives Ethiopia. Young Lives is a research project tracking the lives of 12,000 children in four countries. We use the older cohort and the rural sample. We applied a difference-in-difference methodology with fixed effects as baseline regression on the "full sample" and we control for several covariates. We also use matching techniques to further curb the comparison groups. The differences-in-differences estimation is conducted not only for the 2009 sample, three years after the commencement of the program, but also combining the 2009 and 2013 sample and whether the impact is different for the graduated households.

The results convey significant and positive impacts of PSNP on aspirations and suggest that the program lifts up children's educational aspirations. In our preferred specification, the immediate effect of the program is to increase by 0.87 years of education aspirations of children. As the vast majority of the population in rural Ethiopia depends on a small agricultural livelihood, food insecurity, caused mostly by natural calamities, is a threat to the rural households who mostly depend on rain-fed agriculture. Our results imply that small transfers may mean a lot for the food insecure rural households and can have important spillover effects on education.

We also look at the impacts of PSNP combining the 2009 and 2013 sample and whether it is different for the PSNP graduated households, in order to assess whether the program has a long-run effect on aspirations. The results reveal that the impact of the program is significant once we control for shocks indicating that since the post-intervention period is longer now, it is important to control for exogenous shocks to family resources, as they may confound the effect of the policy intervention but the effect of the program is not different for the households who are graduated from the program.

# **RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION: THE ROLE OF FEMALE PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS IN WEST AFRICA**

*By Astrig Tasgian, University of Turin*

As a result of limited access to assets and paid work, there has been a feminization of poverty in the last decades in developing countries, also because of the increasing share of households headed by women. Women are particularly vulnerable to poverty in rural areas, where gender inequalities in access to resources (education, health, land, credit and productive inputs) and thus in earned income and control over household resources are higher. Furthermore, rural women are particularly affected by discriminatory stereotypes and practices (child marriage, female genital mutilation, widows' property-grabbing). In West Africa, the predominant social organization is patriarchal and patrilineal. Customary norms establish a strict gender division of roles. Parents prefer to invest in the education of boys rather than girls since they are intended for another family (that of the husband). Women and girls bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work, including the collection of water and firewood, in rural areas even more than in urban areas.

In West Africa women represent about 50% of the agricultural labour force especially in small-scale, subsistence farming and produce most of the food for family consumption. However, their role in production is underestimated, they are unpaid family labour, neglected by extension services and usually have no say on the utilization of family production. They are also more deeply affected than men in case of land grabbing: being discriminated in the access to land, it is very difficult for women to acquire new land if they are expropriated.

This paper refers to the evidence from field surveys I carried out in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) on women's activities exercised individually or in groups and in particular to the results of a survey of 138 randomly sampled women-only producer organizations I conducted in 9 out of the 13 regions of Burkina Faso in 2010-2012 using a semi-structured questionnaire.

In this paper, the analysis focuses on women's organizations in rural areas (35.5% of the total sample) and their role in promoting women's empowerment and poverty reduction. The main sector of activity of the surveyed organizations is agriculture, horticulture, livestock (41.3% of the total), followed by agro-processing (39.7%), which includes preparation of shea butter, parboiled rice, drying of fruits and vegetables, etc. The third place is occupied by handicrafts (11.1%): dyeing, weaving, pottery and especially the production of soaps and body creams, followed by trade (7.9%), which includes stocking of cereals.

This survey's results reveal that female producer organizations do not only have a social function (mutual assistance, solidarity, exchange of ideas), but can also be a tool for poor women, especially in rural areas, to have access to credit and training and be able to start an income-generating activity. Psychological empowerment appears to be the main benefit for women from being involved in collective income generating activities. As far as the economic empowerment is concerned, it depends on the characteristics of the organization, its sector of activity, amount of capital, marketing capacity and on the way work is organized and remunerated.



The profit of economic activities of women's organizations often is low for the following reasons: a) projects and NGOs continue to confine women to low-productivity, precarious, traditionally female activities (there is no diversification, but in general production is concentrated in a narrow range of goods with the risk of market saturation); b) due to the lack of training in marketing, there are groups, especially in agro-processing, which, despite having their own equipment and workspace, have a lot of difficulty finding a market. Before starting production, groups should identify innovative and profitable sectors, carry out market research and marketing training. In addition, since an excessive dependence from fair trade is risky because of the volatility of external markets, it would be important to expand the domestic market through trade fairs, advertising, improved labelling and packaging, and cultural awareness campaigns to convince local rich people to consume good quality local craft and food products instead of imported ones.

From the findings of my research, it results that almost all women interviewed control their own earnings and allocate most of them to family expenses (meals' condiments, clothes, and especially children's education and health). They contribute on average to 45-50% of household budget. Women's greater self-confidence and income can favour, but do not guarantee, changes in the power relations within the household. Unpaid care and domestic work need to be redistributed within the household to avoid women's triple work burden. This requires a cultural transformation, social action and sensitization campaigns towards men and young boys.