

Title: The effect of climate shocks and armed conflict on household intimate partner violence in Burkina Faso and Kenya

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Abstract

Intimate partner violence (IPV) has significant impacts on the morbidity and mortality of women since, as a group, women are disproportionately the targets of such violence. IPV is associated with sequelae that range from acute (e.g., physical injury, death) to more long-term (e.g., chronic pain, depression, and anxiety). While IPV is a global issue, prevalence estimates indicate that sub-Saharan Africa has some of the highest numbers with notable variation by country and within countries. Widespread poverty and dependence on rainfed agriculture make Sub-Saharan Africa particularly vulnerable to climate shocks. Further, in recent years, many countries severely impacted by climate change, like Burkina Faso and Kenya, have seen increased localized armed conflict within their borders. These overlapping factors often act to intensify the adverse social, economic, and health outcomes associated with IPV experience or even trigger IPV as households attempt to cope with substantial stress. In this study, we aim to explore the association between community-level climate shocks and those resulting from armed conflict (which in-turn will cause household stress for all or some segment of the exposed population) and intrahousehold violence (i.e., IPV). Specifically, we investigate the separate and combined effects of (1) climate shocks and (2) armed conflict on IPV among a sample of women of reproductive age (15-49) in Burkina Faso and Kenya. We use the Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) survey data which collected detailed information on the sociodemographic characteristics, reproductive health outcomes, and experience of IPV. To evaluate respondents' exposure to climatic shocks and conflict, we spatially and temporally link the PMA survey data to external rainfall and temperature data – Climate Hazards Center InfraRed Precipitation with Station data (CHIRPS) and Climate Hazards Center InfraRed Temperature with Stations data (CHIRTS) – as well as detailed subnational armed conflict data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Project (UCDP). Finally, we align these exposures and the IPV outcome in time and space and use cluster-adjusted regression methods to estimate the association between them while controlling for the geographical clustering of women within specific community samples that is inherent to the sampling design. We anticipate that women residing in communities that experience rainfall and/or temperature shocks will be more likely to have experienced IPV over the last year. Further, we postulate that women exposed to armed conflict will be more likely to also experience IPV. Lastly, we expect that socioeconomic status and/or food insecurity may moderate these relationships.