

KENYA - Measuring Kinship Support for Children of Single Mothers in Nairobi, Kenya

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Overview

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Overview

ABSTRACT

A strikingly large number of African children - up to 60% in some countries - do not co-reside with biological fathers. Most of these children are raised by single mothers, defined as women who are not married, cohabiting or in a socially recognized relationship with the biological or non-biological father of their children. The welfare of these children, however, has generated little concern as studies tend to emphasize the critical compensating role of extended kin in child rearing throughout Africa. It is often assumed that a large and supportive kin network will buffer against any negative effects of single motherhood on children's well-being. However, this assumption may be false. A recent study found that children of single mothers were significantly more likely to die before the age of five than children of mothers in union in 11 countries in Africa. Limited or inadequate support from extended kin may help explain these outcomes, but currently no data exists to rigorously investigate such a claim. In this pilot study, we have developed and administered an innovative survey instrument - Kinship Support Tree - designed to capture time- and space- varying measures of kinship support for single mothers and their young children in an urban context in Kenya characterized by low-income and high circular migration.

UNITS OF ANALYSIS
Single Mothers

Scope

NOTES

Demographic attributes of mothers and close kin

Geo-spatial attributes of kin

Type and quantity of support provided to mother and child from kin

Child health and cognitive development

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
Korogocho

UNIVERSE
Single mothers with at least one child under the age of 7 residing in Korogocho

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
African Population and Health Research Centre	APHRC
University of Maryland College Park	University of Maryland
McGill University, Montreal	McGill University

OTHER PRODUCER(S)

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FUNDING

Name	Abbreviation	Role
Eunice Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development		Funder

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Name	Affiliation	Role
Korogocho Residents	NUHDSS	Respondents

Metadata Production

METADATA PRODUCED BY

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

- Random sample of 500 children aged 0-5 who live with single mothers. In total, 462 single mothers with at least one child under the age of 7 residing in Korogocho were interviewed.
- Kin Sample: 5,344 close kin (co-resident and non-resident)

Questionnaires

Overview

Demographic attributes of mothers and close kin

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Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2015-01-01	2015-02-28	Round 1
2015-06-01	2015-07-31	Round 2

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

Questionnaires

Demographic attributes of mothers and close kin

Geo-spatial attributes of kin

Type and quantity of support provided to mother and child from kin

Child health and cognitive development

Supervision

Ten fieldworkers were recruited and divided in two teams with each comprising one supervisor and four interviewers.

Interviewers had the primary contact with respondents and did actual interviews. The supervisors were in-charge of assigning duties and ensuring the adherence to quality standards. To enhance the quality of data, the following measures were implemented:

1. Detailed training of field staff.
2. Supervisors carried out shadow interviews. A total of 18 shadow interviews were conducted with supervisors giving feedback to each of the interviewers.
3. Spot checks by the Research Officer and supervisors. This is where specific questions or issues are followed up with the respondent.
4. A system of error checking logs: Frequent reports on errors and inconsistencies are produced and sent to the field team for verification and possible correction. This was a coordinated effort between the office teams (both at APHRC and University of Maryland) and the field team.

The field team conducted meetings twice in a week to address any issues that arose. The other persons involved in the project kept abreast with the progress of data collection using frequent emails and weekly Skype calls.

Data Processing

Other Processing

Once data collected on the Tablets, they were uploaded to the APHRC servers on a daily basis where they were pre-processed before being merged into the main database. The data were stored with password and access-restricted servers at the central offices. All Tablets had SQL backup databases purged at the end of data collection.

Data Appraisal

No content available

Related Materials

Questionnaires

KST_Questionnaire_Wave1

Title KST_Questionnaire_Wave1
Filename Final_KST_Questionnaire_Wave1_English.pdf

KST_Questionnaire_Wave2

Title KST_Questionnaire_Wave2
Filename Final_KST_Questionnaire_Wave2_English.pdf

Technical documents

Kinship Technical Documentation

Title Kinship Technical Documentation
Filename KST Technical Documentation .pdf

Other materials

Ethical Approval

Title Ethical Approval
Filename Approval letter - P121-2014_Amendments (April 2015).pdf
