Discussion

Male migration and women empowerment: the case of Samoa

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Summary

• Impact of husband out-migration on women employment and empowerment:
  ✓ Male absence
  ✓ Remittance flows

• Used SAM’s first Demographic and Health – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
  ✓ DHS conducted every 5 years; integrated with MICS for the first time
  ✓ October 2019 – February 2020 (lengthier gathering due to measles outbreak)

• Labor out-migration by husbands improved indicators relating to women’s empowerment.
Topic, methodology, and estimation results

• Highly-relevant topic
  - SAM: one of the small countries with highest emigration rates in the world (D’Aiglepierrre et al. 2020)
  - Remittances a major contributor to SAM economy
  - Economically active: male = 71%; female = 29% (Samoa Bureau of Statistics and UNFPA 2020)
  - Burden on unpaid care work on SAM women is higher than regional average (SBS and UNFPA 2020)

• Using logistic regression
  - Which type?
  - What is the base outcome used in interpreting results?
  - Need to specify if coefficients are odds ratio, marginal effects, or logit coefficient

• Issue of endogeneity: how was it addressed?
  - What is/are the omitted variable bias?
  - Simultaneity bias: (1) empowerment variable; (2) employment/income variable—husband decision may depend on employment status of wife/household income

• Possible impact of measles outbreak on the survey
Areas to explore

• Insignificance of employment work—is it because women have to take care of the children as well?

• Level of remittance – does it affect women outcomes as well? (i.e. higher remittance—lower incentive to work)

• Need to provide more discussion on possible policy implication/s

• Further extension: impact of women labor migration to gender roles in the household and overall household welfare
Thank you!