

# AGRILINKS



## Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 in Four African Countries

**Speakers:**

*Talip Kilic, World Bank Development Data Group*

*Anna Josephson, University of Arizona*

*Christopher Hillbruner, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security*

**Moderator:**

*Zachary Baquet, USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security*

**Date:**

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Talip Kilic, Senior Economist, World Bank Development Data Group



Talip Kilic is a Senior Economist at the World Bank Development Data Group; a member the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) team; a core team member for the World Development Report 2021 on Data for Better Lives; and the focal point for the COVID-19 phone surveys that are supported by the World Bank LSMS team. His research focuses on poverty, agriculture, and gender in low- and middle-income countries, as well as survey methodology to improve the quality, timeliness and policy-relevance of household and farm surveys. In the latter line of work, objective measurement, including through sensor deployment; research on policy implications of non-classical measurement error in survey data; and integration with geospatial, census, administrative and mobile data are of interest to him.

## Anna Josephson, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Arizona



Anna Josephson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Arizona. Her core research focuses on individuals in and households around the world, on issues of risk, development, food security, and agriculture. In her work, Dr. Josephson explores the relationships between individuals and their risky environments, and how households and small firms make decisions to survive under challenging conditions.

# Socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in four African countries

Anna Josephson, University of Arizona  
Talip Kilic, World Bank  
Jeffrey D. Michler, University of Arizona

Feed the Future: AgriLinks

18 November 2020

# Introduction and Motivation

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- ▶ To date, greatest health and economic burden has been felt in the Americas and Europe.
- ▶ Low- and middle-income countries will face increasing challenges in coming months, exacerbated by limited health systems.

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Tracking how peoples lives are affected by COVID-19 can enable governments and policymakers to better understand the circumstances faced by their countries.



## Objective

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- ▶ Combine data from high-frequency phone surveys on COVID-19 with the pre-COVID-19 survey data collected under the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study - Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) program.
- ▶ Data from four countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda.

# Data

- ▶ Monthly phone surveys in Burkina Faso, **Ethiopia**, **Malawi**, Mali, **Nigeria**, and **Uganda**.
  - ▶ Phone surveys in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, and Uganda conduct monthly phone interviews for 12 months, with a national sample of households that had been interviewed by the most recent LSMS-ISA-supported national longitudinal household survey.

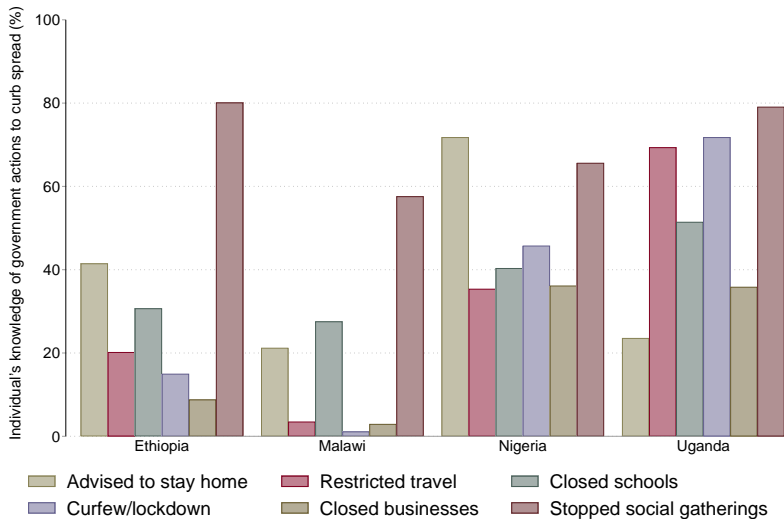
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- ▶ Pre-COVID-19 LSMS-ISA data used not only in the analysis of the phone survey data but also in the calculating sampling weights that counteract potential selection bias due to:
  - ▶ Not being able to interview the LSMS-ISA households without phone contact information.
  - ▶ Not being able to reach all targeted LSMS-ISA households - primarily due to phones being off and non-working phone numbers.

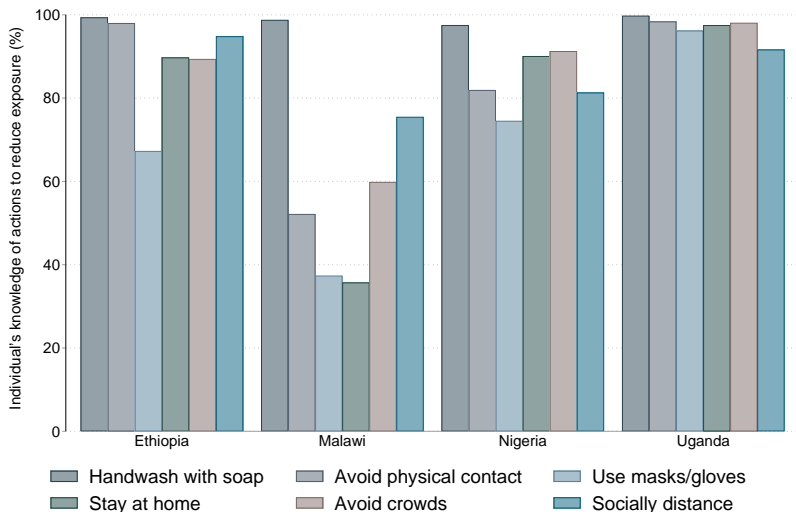
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  - ▶ Not being able to reach all targeted LSMS-ISA households - primarily due to phones being off and non-working phone numbers.
- ▶ Data and documentation for LSMS-supported phone surveys are available through [www.worldbank.org/lsms-covid19](http://www.worldbank.org/lsms-covid19).

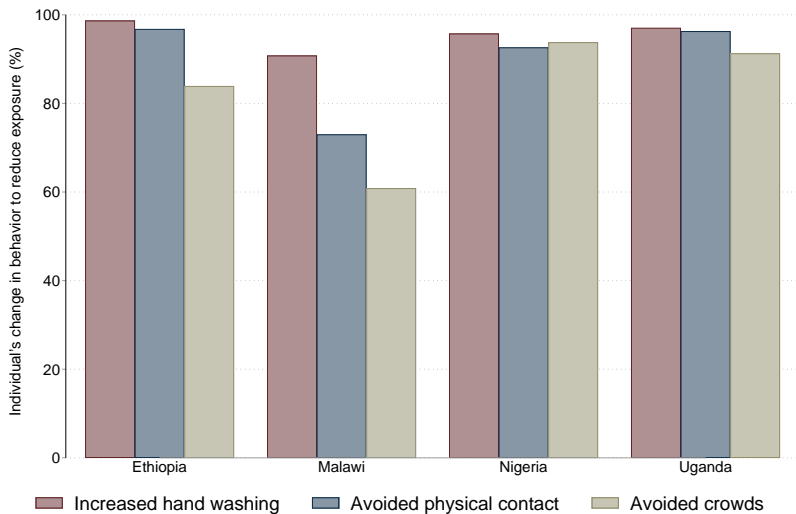
Individuals' knowledge of government actions to curb COVID-19 spread are commensurate with government response.



Knowledge of actions to reduce COVID-19 exposure is high, with exceptions in Malawi.

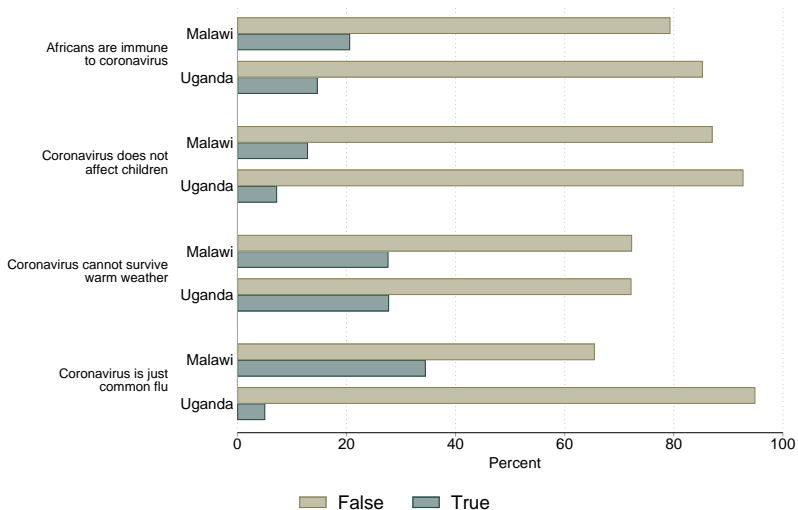


Individuals report that they have changed their behavior to reduce COVID-19 exposure.

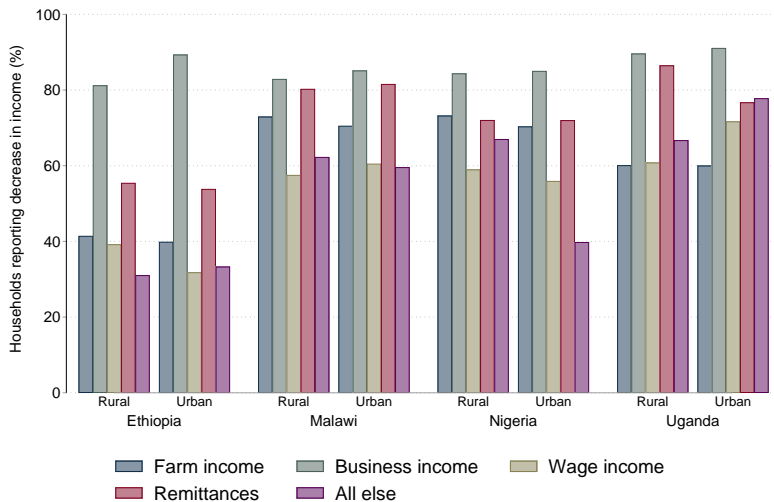




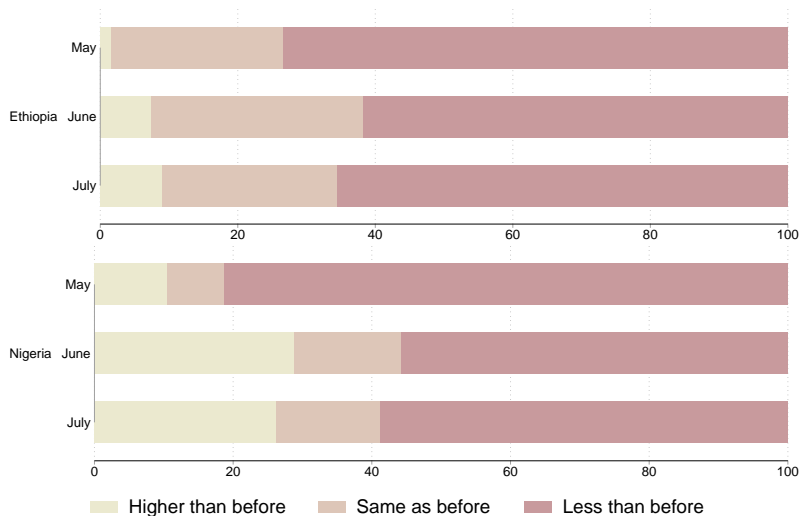
## Misconceptions about transmission of COVID-19 are quite high.



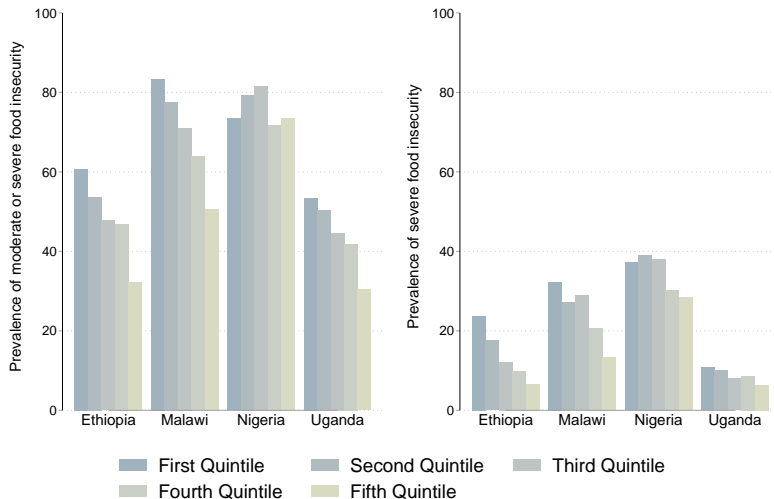
258 million people - 77% of the population across four countries - live in households that lost income due to the pandemic.



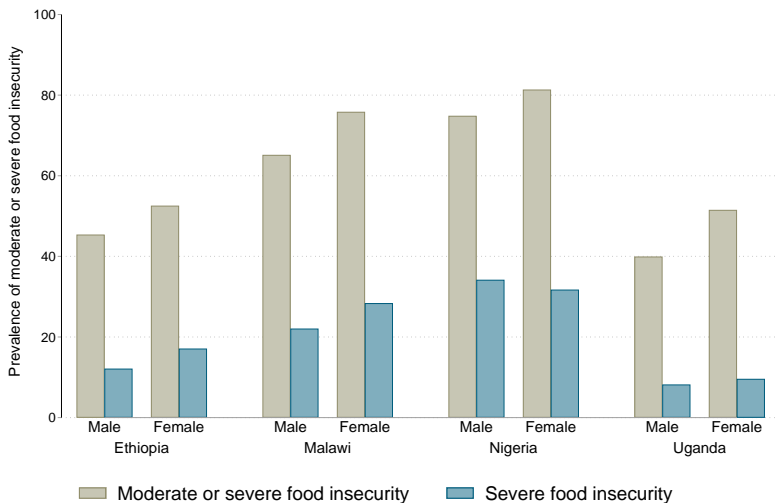
Most respondents report that income remains down, relative with pre-pandemic levels, though there is potential recovery seen over the waves.



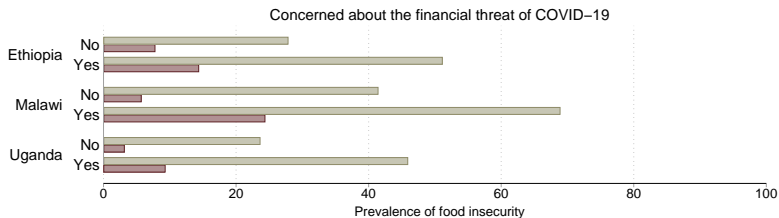
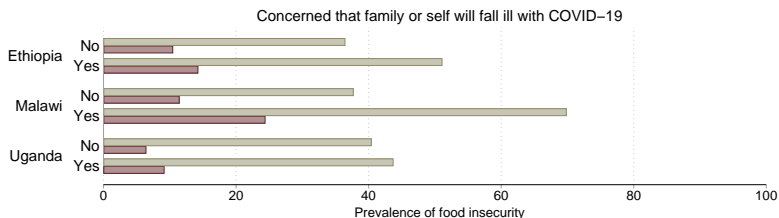
Moderate & severe food insecurity affects 62% of adult population across four countries - 102 million adults - with differences across pre-COVID-19 household consumption quintiles.



Moderate or severe food insecurity is significantly more common in female-headed households.

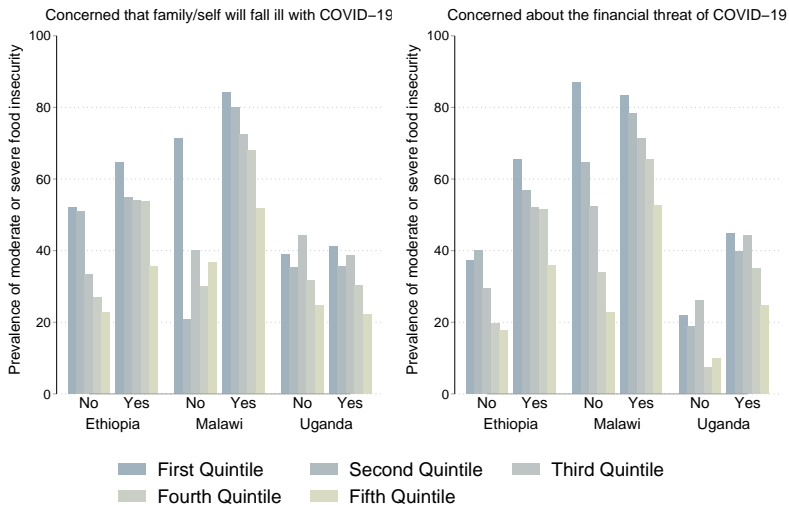


Prevalence of moderate & severe food insecurity is higher among those that are concerned about falling ill and suffering financial consequences associated with COVID-19.

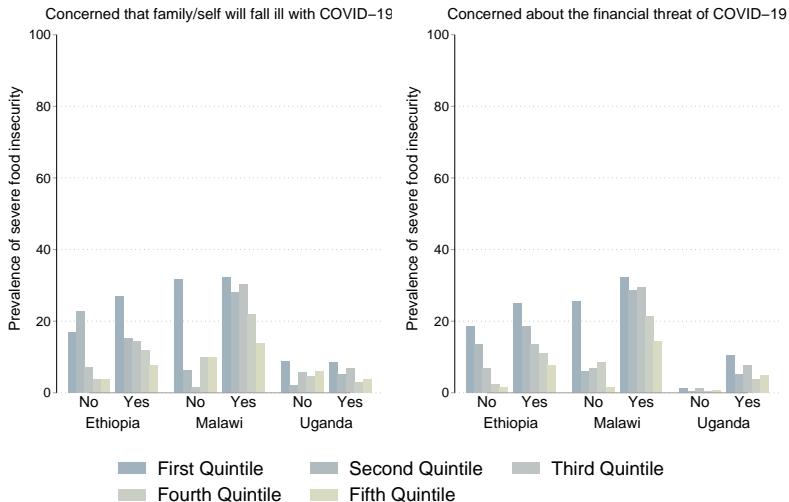


■ Moderate or severe
 ■ Severe

There is little heterogeneity across consumption quintiles and moderate food insecurity, by concerns within the household.

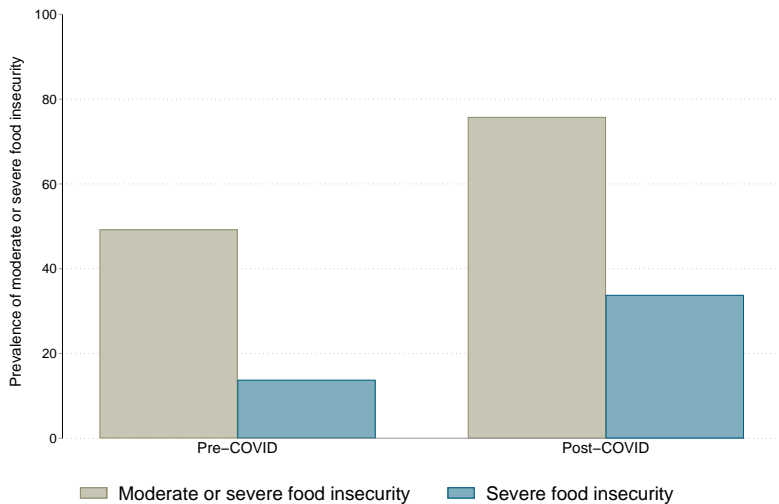


This holds when examining severe food insecurity: there is little heterogeneity across consumption quintiles, by concerns within the household.

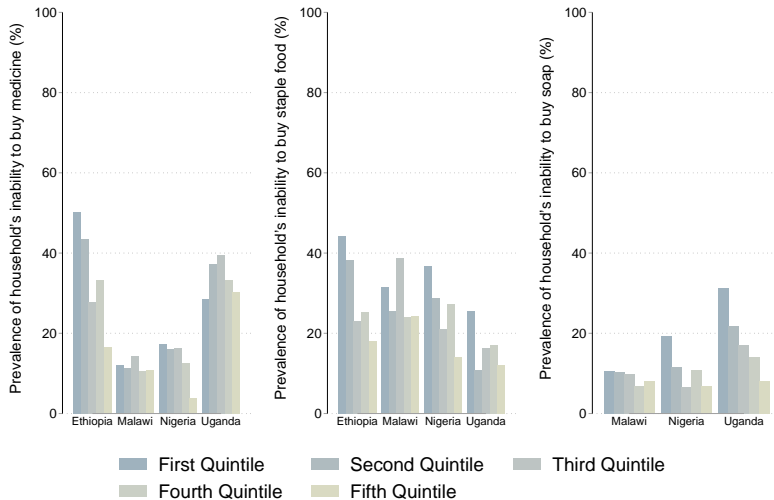




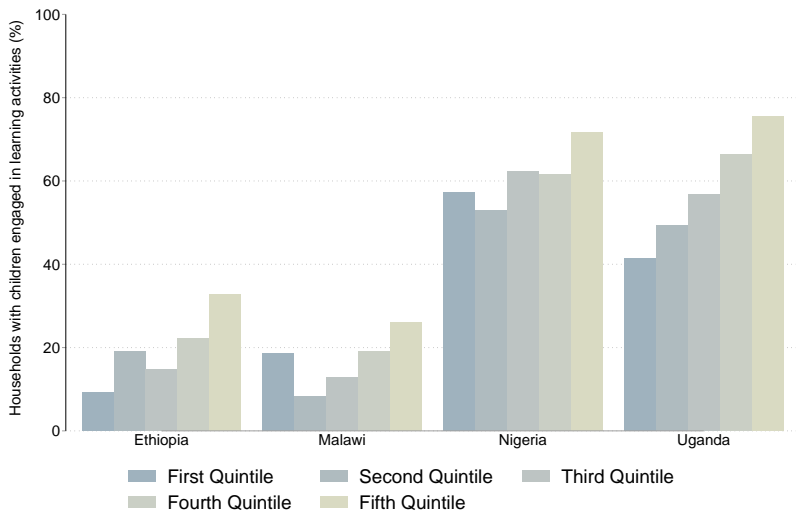
In Nigeria, significant differences exist when comparing pre-COVID and post-COVID levels of food insecurity.



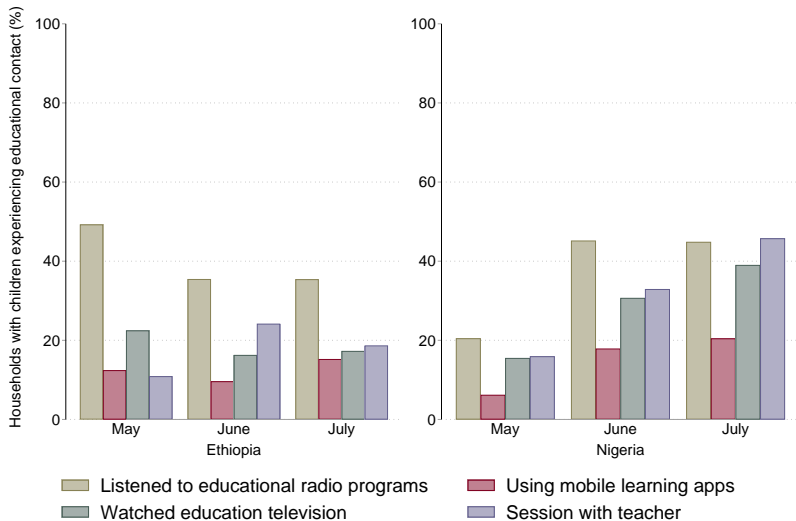
Households report difficulties accessing medicine and staple foods, and to a lesser degree, soap.



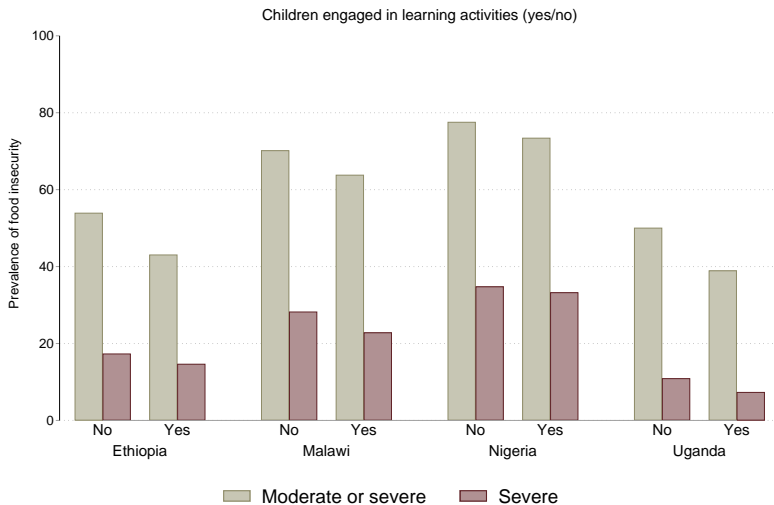
Following school closures, only 48% of households across four countries had a school-age child engaged in an educational activity, with important cross-country differences.



Student engagement in educational activities, especially sessions with teacher, has increased over time during the school closures.



Food insecurity is higher among households where children are not engaged in learning activities.



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- ▶ Few students have been able to engage in learning activities since school closures.
- ▶ There is considerable cross-country heterogeneity.
- ▶ There is a continued need for monitoring of household-level impacts and responses - given the extent of the adverse effects and “negative” coping strategies.

Thank you!

Q&A...

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