**How do migrations affect under-five mortality in rural area? Evidence from Niakhar**

**Abstract**

This study analyses the relationship between household member’s migration and child mortality among non-migrating family’s in rural area. Exploring the richness of the Niakhar Health and Demographic Surveillance System panel, we use high frequency migration data (observed quarterly) to investigate the effects of migration on child mortality at the household level during a period of 15 years (1998 to 2013). We found that migrations, particularly short-term migration, are positively associated with the survival probability of under-five children in the household. In addition, we found that the effect of active women's short-term migrations on child mortality are more important than active men's short-term migrations. This observation supports the hypotheses in the economic literature on the increasing role of women in rural household. Secondly, we detected crossover effects between households of the same concession – in line with the idea that African rural families share a part of their economic benefits from migration to an extended neighboring (at least not limited to the close family). Lastly, we investigate the effect of mother's short-term migration on the survival of her own under-5 children. We found that the aggregate effect of mother migration on child survival is still positive, but much weaker. Taking things in more details, her absence during pregnancy seems good for the unborn child, although, when the child gets older (e.g. 1 year), the absence of the mother tends to decrease her child’s survival probability.

**Keywords:** Niakhar, short- and long-term migrations, child mortality