

MSC PROJECT AT THE RESEARCH GROUP OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Research Title

Consequences of illness for farmers’ households in Ewaso Narok Swamp, Kenya

Keywords: health care costs; illness costs; household impacts; coping strategies

The growing food insecurity in East Africa has led to an expansion of cultivation to wetland sites. As individuals use them for farming, they may expose themselves to the risk of contracting diseases. Illness can have wide-ranging implications on households, which shall be addressed by this study.

The main research focus will be to investigate direct and indirect consequences of the major wetland-related diseases for farmers and their families on a household level. The effects of different diseases shall be measured as well as the coping strategies of households. A descriptive cross-sectional study design which employs mixed methods will be used. For the quantitative part of the study, household questionnaires will be administered in the two stratified zones in Ewaso Narok Swamp. As for qualitative data collection, household members will be selected for participation in Focus Group Discussions. Also, Key Informant Interviews will be conducted with Community Health Volunteers, village heads, religious leaders and farmers’ association members. The pertinent issues addressed will entail family income reduction due to absenteeism; the patient special time-intensive and costly cares from the family and health services of the farmers’ households. The research will be conducted in Ewaso Narok Swamp, Kenya, which is characterized by year-round water availability within a semiarid area, high resource base quality and hence potential hotspot for food production.

This study will help to address the economic pillar for Kenya to achieve its Vision 2030 as well as promoting the recently formulated United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



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Cluster	Capacity-building
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Subject	Public Health
Faculty	School of Public Health
University	Kenyatta University
Working period	05/2016 – 12/2016