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CBMS-GFC Findings in Nigeria

Anthonia Achike

CBMS2 - Monitoring the Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis
through CBMS in Africa



ABSTRACT OF CBMS-NIGERIA SURVEY

CBMS-Nigeria survey aimed at empirically determining and tracking poverty situations and effects of the global financial crises at both individual and household levels in rural communities of Nigeria. In this initial survey, Edem, a rural community in Nsukka local government area was selected as the project site. Hence, a census of the entire population (approximately 5000) was carried out. The survey was carried at three levels: the individual, household and community levels. Results of the study at both individual and household levels showed that about 11393 representing about 54% of the population was male while the rest, about 9473 representing about 46% was female. On the average, there were relatively more males than females in the households and this has some implications for labour quality in terms farm productivity and absorption of shocks arising from global financial crises. The average household size was about 4.4 persons. A household was defined as a group of people who feed who live under a common roof and feed from the same budget. All the household members were Christians and this depicted less religious crises except few reports of inter and intra denominational rivalry. Over 70% of the population had lived the village community for 20 or more years. Indeed almost all the households are indigenes of the community with the exception of a few non-indigenes who are mainly teachers and community health workers. In terms of health service provision, the survey indicates that the average distance to the nearest hospital was about 3 kilometers. The average distance to the nearest patent medicine store was about 1.1 kilometer. Almost 70% of the population reported ill-health in the last 6 month preceding the survey. Malaria accounted for about 75% of reported illnesses among the population. This is distantly followed by fever which accounted for about 2%. About 174 of the households reported death in the last 6 month preceding the interview. Nearly half of the deaths (48.7%) occurred among children less than 5 years old.

The major households' source of drinking water was from community springs and rivers. Only few households dug shallow wells and these springs, rivers and wells served as sources drinking, bathing, and cooking and laundry water. Pit latrine was the prevalent toilet facility in the area even though the majority of households (56%) defecated in nearby bushes, only about 6% had access to flush toilets.

The survey used household durables as measure of wealth status. Only about 34% of households possessed television, about 52% had radio, about 20% owned bicycle. Only 4% had fridge while only about 1.6% had computers.

In terms of wealth, the average household income from all sources including inputted owner occupier rents, local and international remittances was about N14840 per month. Local remittances from relations living in other cities in Nigeria averaged N1056 per month per household (or about 7% of total household income). Average household income from overseas remittances per month was N158 (or about 1% of total household monthly income). Majority of the households reported earning their livelihood through income derived from farming of different crops which accounts for about 35% of total household monthly income during the 6 month period covered by the survey. Salaries and wages make up less than 2% of total household income in the communities (so, what was their major source of income?).

The educational attainment instrument showed that at individual level, about 51% of the population had primary education, 14% had Junior Secondary education while about 24% completed Senior Secondary school. About 6% had more than secondary education. It was also recorded that some children who were between 3 years and 10 years were not yet in school.

The distribution of employment status of the population is reflected in the Table 1

	No.	%
1 Unemployed	1,261	10.23
2 Employed	139	1.13
3. Self employed	5,869	47.63
4 Regular employee	396	3.21
5 Casual employee	131	1.06
6 Unpaid family worker	783	6.36
7 Student/apprentice	3,514	28.52
8 Pensioners	127	1.03
9 others	90	0.73
Total	12,310	

The table shows that the majority (47.6%) of the workforce is self-employed. Specifically, 28% of population above 15 years is made of students while 10% is unemployed.

In terms of occupation and employment for individuals who were 15 years and above, the distribution was unemployed- 10%, employed- 62%, self employed- 47%, casual employees 1%, unpaid family workers 6%, student/apprentice-28%,

pensioner 1%. Out of the employed individuals the study found that only 3% was on full time jobs. Also many of the household individuals who were working reported that they were not satisfied with their jobs. According the survey, 86% of the employed was employed in the private sector while the rest was employed in the public sector.

On the effects of global financial crises and coping mechanisms at both individual and household levels the study found that some households in the community had relations living abroad (outside Nigeria) and some of these households have had contacts with their overseas relations in the past six months. It was reported that 5% of the surveyed households have withdrawn their children from schools in the last six months preceding the survey for a variety of reasons ranging from inability to cope with school demands (49%), decline in family income (27%), and increase in school fees (5%). About 27% of households admitted that they have had to cut down on school expenditures. The survey also found that in the last six months 3% of households transferred their children from private to public schools for different reasons bordering on increasing economic difficulties.

The study recorded a negligible GFC effects on occupation and employment. This is because an insignificant percentage of the workforce (0.31%) reported losing their jobs in the last 6 month. On household health coping mechanisms, the survey noted that households had meal formulae ranging from: 1-1-1(46%), 0-1-0(2%), 1-0-1(47%), 0-1-1(2%), These statistics clearly demonstrate that GFC has impacted on households in Edem community although the impact is felt in some area more than others. It is also possible that such impact has not been evenly spread among households. The detailed study reports on the differential impact of GFC on households and suggests possible policy responses to mitigate these effects particularly on the poorest households.