

Effects of household definitions on survey results and possible implications for policy design: Evidence from Tanzania's Maasai

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Introduction

What is the problem?

- Different definitions of a household in surveys
- Lack of consistency
 - comparability may be difficult
 - conclusions may lead to misleading policy recommendations

Data and Methodology

How did we approach the problem?

- Identify common household definitions used in surveys
- Apply different definitions to a household dataset of 200 Maasai pastoralists living in Northern Tanzania
- Assess variations in welfare indicators resulting from the different definitions

Identification

General household definition

- "A household definition usually includes some intersection of keywords related to residency requirements, common food consumption, and intermingling of income or production decisions." (Beaman and Dillon, 2011)

Specific survey definition

Source

Specific survey definition	Source
D1 People who occupy a common dwelling unit (or a part of it) for at least four nights in a week	(Beaman & Dillon, 2011)
D2 Group of people who lives together, pool their money and eat at least one meal together each day	(Schreiner, 2015)
D3 Group of people who have stayed in the household for at least 3 months within the last 12 months.	(NBS Tanzania, 2008)

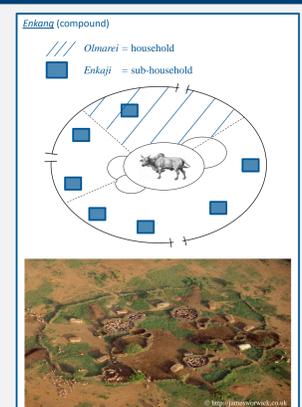
Findings

Welfare indicator	D1	D2	D3	Difference
Income/capita (in '000 TZS)	17.52	17.37	16.38	1.14 (6.5%)
Expenditure/capita (in '000 TZS)	66.43	65.56	62.62	3.81 (5.7%)
Asset/capita (in '000 TZS)	57.53	57.06	55.04	2.49 (4.3%)
TLU/capita	4.32	4.31	4.10	0.22 (5.1%)

Differences: Using different household definitions lead to the indicators deviating between 4-7%.

Conclusions

- Differences in welfare indicators do not vary hugely between the three definitions, **but:**
- Further analysis is required to identify if this leads to different results in regression analyses
- Maasai families are often comprised of several sub-households that may be considered as separate households leading to an increase of the number of households
- Further analysis to address the effect of inflating observations is needed



References

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