

The effects of remittances on food and nutrition security in the context of multiple shocks in Malawi



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Introduction & methods

- ❖ There has been an upsurge of various shocks that has exacerbated food and nutrition insecurity.
- ❖ Nationally, 58.9, 46.5, and 45.6 percent of households were affected by unusual high prices of food, high cost of agricultural inputs, and irregular rains, respectively (NSO, 2020).

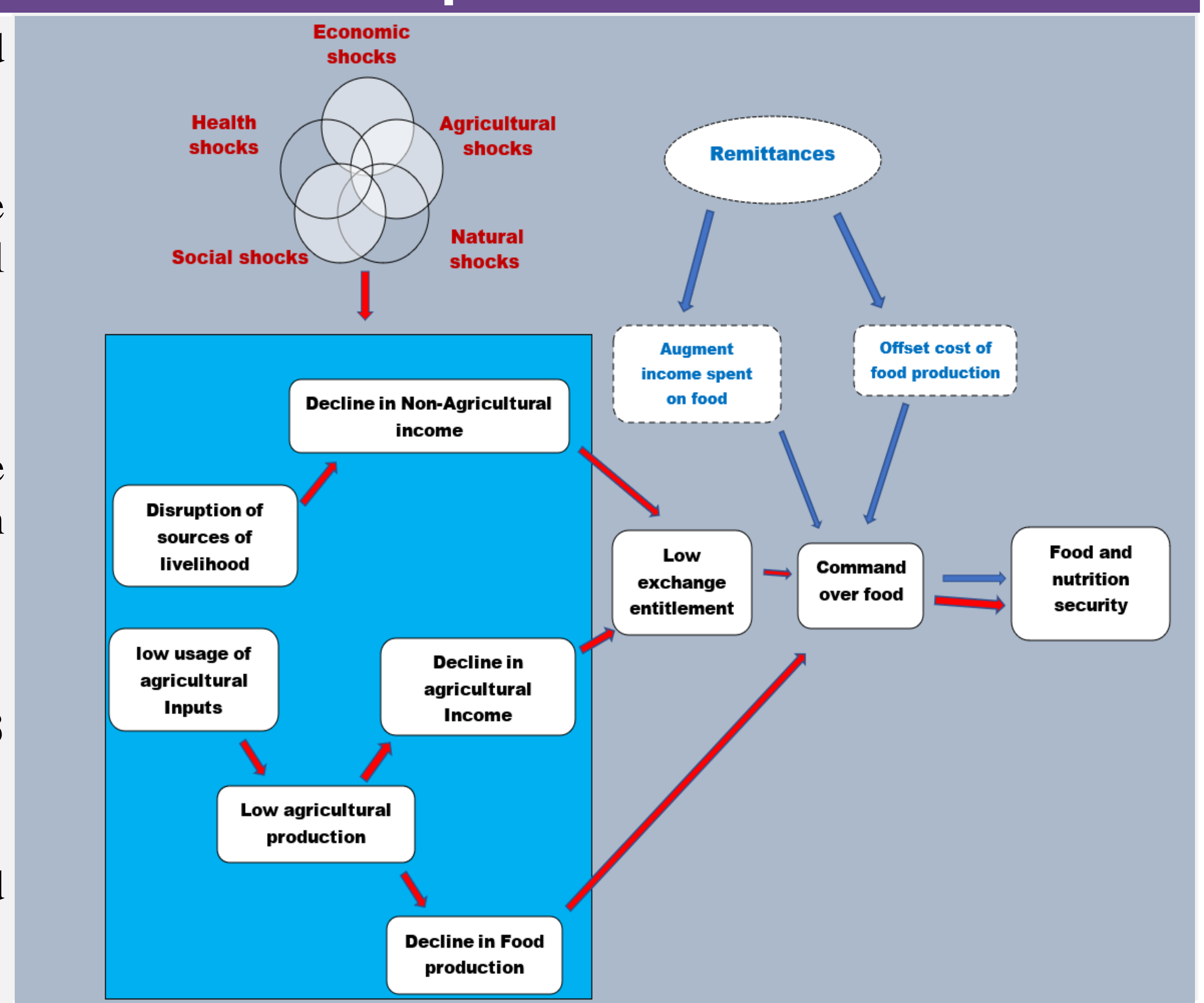
Research Objective

- ❖ This study examines the potential of remittances in offsetting the effects of aggregate shocks on household food and nutrition security.

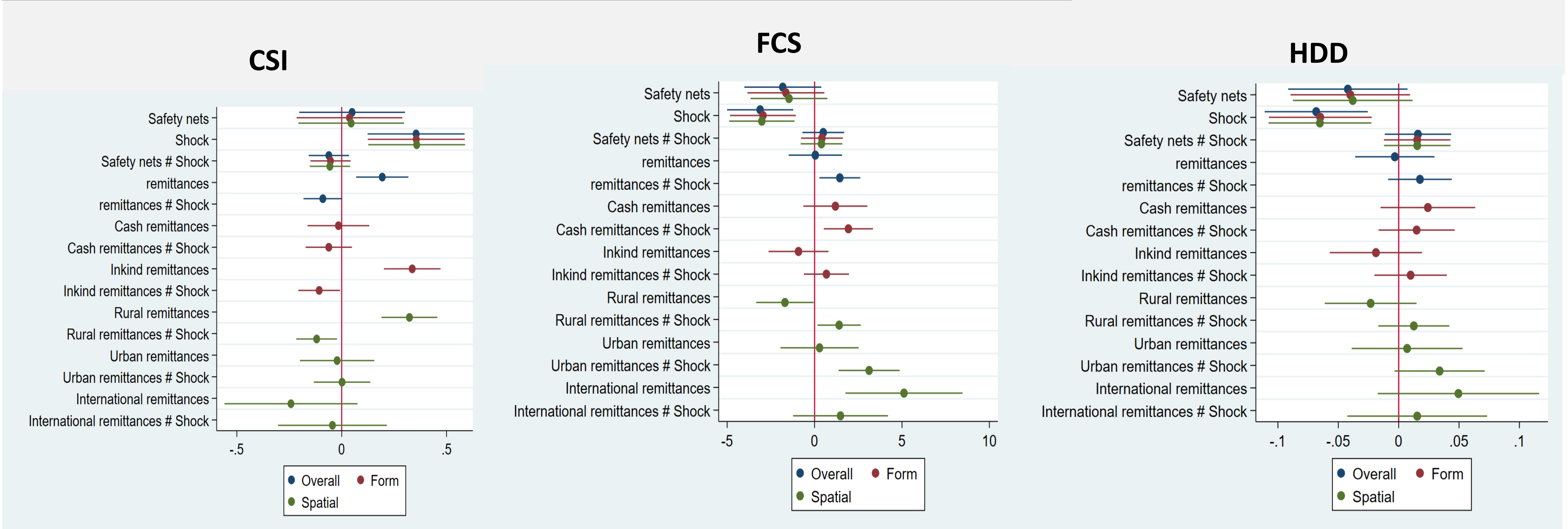
Data and methodology

- ❖ Integrated Household Survey (2019) usable sample of 7,723 households.
- ❖ Regression analysis (control function technique) was employed
- ❖ Indicators of food and nutrition security used - CSI, FCS, and HDD.

Conceptual framework



Findings



Findings

- ❖ The increase in the intensity of aggregate shocks significantly increases CSI, and reduces FCS and HDD.
- ❖ Overall, households that received remittances have a higher CSI, but remittances have no effect on FCS and HDD.
- ❖ However, in the face of shocks, overall remittances reduce the CSI, and increase the FCS
- ❖ In terms of form, recipients of in-kind remittances have higher CSI than non-recipients.
- ❖ In the face of shocks, in-kind remittances reduce CSI, while cash remittances increase FCS.
- ❖ For spatial characteristics, recipients of rural, and international remittances have a higher CSI, and FCS than other households, respectively.
- ❖ However, in the face of shocks, rural remittances reduces the CSI, and increases the FCS.

Findings(cont.)

- ❖ Urban remittances also increase the FCS for households facing intense shocks.

Conclusions

- ❖ The operating environment for households is characterized by shocks.
- ❖ Without considering shocks remittances are insignificant or detrimental for food and nutritional security.
- ❖ This is because remittances are inadequate to compensate for the loss in family labour due to migration.
- ❖ Remittances offset the shock effects that exacerbate food and nutrition insecurity
- ❖ In this case, remittances act as insurance where income/food losses due to shocks are compensated by remittances.

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