Revisiting the empirical relationship between climate shocks and food security: Evidence from Malawi

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SUMMARY

- We study the impact of different climatic events on a wide range of food security and nutrition indicators.
- Our results show that wet shocks negatively affect all food security dimensions.
- Dry shocks negatively affect access, agency, and sustainability dimensions of food security but have no significant effect on availability, and stability.
- Both wet and dry shocks have no significant effect nutritional outcomes.
- Across food categories, wet shocks significantly reduce consumption of legumes and starchy staples whilst dry shocks reduce consumption of food from animal sources, legumes and vegetables.
- When disaggregated by sub populations, wet shocks affect both male and female headed households, and the effect is similar across all agroecological zones, whilst dry shocks affect male headed households and

MAIN RESULTS



households located in the warm semi-arid agro-ecological zone.

RESULTS BY SUB-GROUP



R-CSI

INTRODUCTION



INTAKE

FOOD ISSUE

Conclusion: Findings illustrate the heterogeneity in the effects of climatic shocks on relative consumption. The impact of any given climatic shock depends on the nature of the shock and the geographic and subpopulation characteristics that, in turn, shape the vulnerability of the local food system. Policy response to climatic shocks therefore must be targeted and local specific.



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