



# Climate change and children

**Anticipated climate changes may affect rural children in Africa in several ways. Health impacts of more extreme weather and greater rainfall variability have been projected, but how about the social responses of households? In 2009 - 2010 Fafo, in collaboration with ENEA in Senegal, investigated the role of children in household risk management in rural Senegal.**

## **Results from Senegal in total**

- Extrapolated estimate that 300,000 children having left their parental households in rural areas.
- An estimated 70,000 having left for informal Koranic studies – a practice generally leaving very young children in the street to beg.

## **Results from the vulnerable areas in Sengal**

- 67 percent of drought exposed families have relocated at least one child, compared to 45 percent of non-drought-exposed households.
- 68 percent of households that had experienced economic shocks following animal disease had relocated children, compared to 47 percent of those that had not.
- In comparison, the death of an adult breadwinner, also causing an income shock, only led to an increase of child mobility of 6 percentage points.
- Poverty also affects child mobility: while 45 percent of households with solid household buildings had relocated at least one child, 60 percent of households with only partly solid or non-solid housing material had done the same.
- Regressions show that drought affects child mobility independent of poverty, although richer households are more sensitive to drought.
- While child mobility increase by 9 percentage points when wealthier households are shocked by drought, it increases by 7 percentage points in the poorer households.

### **Researcher:**



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