

“Geographic Prioritization in Kenya and Uganda: A power analysis of donor transition” (bmjgh-2022-010499)

Reflexivity Statement: This publication relies on data collected as part of a USAID-supported mixed-methods evaluation in Kenya and Uganda. The evaluation was carried out between 2016 and 2018, through a project led by faculty from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health (JHSPH) in collaboration with colleagues from Makerere University, School of Public Health (MakSPH) and IPSOS-Kenya. The current article re-analyzes a data set that was collected for the purposes of an evaluation whose results are reported elsewhere. Because all authors were a part of this larger project, the reflexivity statement touches upon broader characteristics of project activities, some which are in addition to the scope of the current article. This reflexivity statement has been reviewed and approved by all co-authors.

1. How does this study address local research and policy priorities?

Though the evaluation questions were commissioned by USAID, this evaluation fit with the broader research agendas of our partners, as well as follow-on research and collaborations. The topic of the current analysis was initially discussed as part of project team meetings on future publications.

2. How were local researchers involved in study design?

The research questions were requested by USAID, but the study design and implementation were developed collaboratively by the whole research team. The JHSPH team developed the initial study design and study instruments, which were adapted and finalized in collaboration with colleagues from MakSPH and IPSOS-Kenya.

3. How has funding been used to support the local research team?

Teams from MakSPH and IPSOS-Kenya received funding to engage in the study, collect, analyze, and disseminate the results.

4. How are research staff who conducted data collection acknowledged?

Research teams who supported and participated in data collection and analysis are acknowledged in the article’s acknowledgements statement.

5. Do all members of the research team have access to study data?

All members of the research team had access to study data and were invited to lead publications or to conduct additional analyses, if desirable.

7. How have research partners collaborated in interpreting study data?

For this article, the analysis was led by LP and DR. All other co-authors partners reviewed and provided inputs into the results of the analysis and contributed to the review and refinement of the discussion section.

8. How were research partners supported to develop writing skills?

Training sessions and capacity building on qualitative coding and analysis were conducted with junior colleagues at JHSPH and IPSOS-Kenya.

9. How will research products be shared to address local needs?

Findings from the main evaluation were disseminated locally between data collection rounds, as well as after the endline data collection round. Similar participant checking for the analysis presented in this article was not feasible, as the analysis was conducted after the project concluded. The results of the overall evaluation, as well as of the analysis presented in this article were relevant to ongoing discussions in-country regarding development assistance for health and impacts of donor transition.

10. How is the leadership, contribution and ownership of this work by LMIC researchers recognised within the authorship?

This publication draws on cross-country data and has two first authors from JHSPH, and a second author from MakSPH. Additional authors IPSOS-Kenya and MakSPH are also included. The senior author is from JHSPH, as they were most closely involved in mentoring the lead authors and providing feedback on all drafts. All authors have extensive experience with qualitative research, and health policy and systems dynamics in the Global South.

11. How have early career researchers across the partnership been included within the authorship team?

The second author, who is from MakSPH is also an early career researcher.

12. How has gender balance been addressed within the authorship?

This publication has four female authors, and two male authors.

13. How has the project contributed to training of LMIC researchers?

Training sessions and capacity building on qualitative coding and analysis were conducted with junior colleagues at JHSPH and IPSOS-Kenya.

14. How has this project contributed to improvements in local infrastructure?

This project has not contributed to improvements in local infrastructure.

15. What safeguarding procedures were used to protect local study participants and researchers.

Approvals for the research were obtained from ethics review boards in the US, Uganda, and Kenya.