IMPACT OF CALAMITIES ON THE PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS MEETING THE RECOMMENDED ENERGY INTAKE AMONG FILIPINOS

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BACKGROUND

During calamities, the food security of the population is compromised due to the significant negative impact of extreme weather events on agriculture (Israel, 2013). Prices of agricultural products tend to increase thus consumption decreases (World Bank, 2010). During and after the onset of calamities, diets are no longer diverse because of lack of food supply and this mainly consists of staples, thus current diets no longer satisfy the nutritional requirements of individual members of the household.

OBJECTIVE

This study validated the effects of calamity exposure on the proportion of households that meet 100 percent of the recommended energy intake of Filipinos.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Merged datasets from the 2013 National Nutrition Survey (NNS) on household head information, household socioeconomic profile and government program participation and data on calamity exposure to include typhoons, flood, earthquakes, landslides among others from the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) were analyzed to determine the effects of calamity exposure of households in meeting their recommended energy requirements.

RESULTS

Households from the richer quintiles, who were already food secure to begin with, and have smaller sizes, those that participated in livelihood programs of the government particularly the food production program are more likely to meet their energy requirements even after adjusting for calamity exposure. Households participating in non-agricultural work are less likely to meet their recommended energy requirements.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Only 30 percent of households exposed to calamities prior to the survey are more likely to meet the recommended energy intake. Hence, even in the absence of calamities, it is necessary to consider households vulnerable to food insecurity in formulating disaster risk reduction efforts and identifying priority groups for intervention. Without government support, the members of calamity-exposed households are likely to experience hunger and become undernourished.