

Remittances and resilience to climate change in semi-arid areas of Senegal: a gender effect?

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In Senegal, remittances are the largest source of external capital before foreign direct investment and official development aid. In the semi-arid areas of the country (Centre, North and North-East), households depend on it to face vulnerabilities related to poverty, environmental degradation and socio-political exclusion. Several studies have shown that the perceptions of climate change, the degree of exposure to vulnerabilities and the coping strategies vary according to gender. In Senegal, socioeconomic roles are strongly marked by gender. This effect is also noticeable in migration dynamics. Migration, especially the international one, has long been "men's business" but today it begins to be more feminized. Women like men contribute to the "economy of remittances" allowing Senegal to be the third sub-Saharan Africa to receive more transfers. But key questions arise: how gender influences remittances' dynamics? What are the points of convergence and divergence between men and women in terms of money transfer channels, destination and use of transfers and their impacts on resilience to climate change? Our research will be structured around the following hypothesis: women as heads of households in areas where remittances represent the main economic resource consider investing in human capital as a priority and make choices in favor of more resilience.

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