IMPACT OF MIGRANTS REMITTANCES ON ECONOMIC STATUS AND STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE HOUSEHOLDS IN BENIN METROPOLIS

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ABSTRACT
Remittances remains a leading gain of international migration, especially as it relates to economic development and improving standard of living of the international migrants and their household members left behind. This study has examined the impact of migrants’ remittances on economic status and standard of living of the households. A total of 875 respondents were sampled across 3 local government areas of Edo state namely, Egor, Oredo and Ikpoba Okha. The instrument used in this study was the questionnaire and In-Depth-Interview (IDI). The analysis of the data was carried out using descriptive analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences computer software (version 22.0) while the IDI were transcribed. The result showed that remittances accounted for (29.8%) of the sources of the households income. 83.0% asserted that migrants’ remittances increase their household’s standard of living and affirmed that monies households receive as remittances is a major factor in their economic status. 85.1% of the household rated the remittances as important to their standard of living as it helps in acquiring asset and other valuables. Many IDI interviewees also attested to the gains of remittance as it relates to their economic status and standard of living. Over 51 percent, of the household representatives rated very highly the impact that remittances had on their accommodation, housing and feeding. The study recommends that well-streamlined measures should be adopted by all stakeholders to ensure easy flow of migrants’ remittances to benefit not only the household but the entire nation.

Keywords: Remittances, Household, Standard of Living, Pre-migration, Post-migration, Economic status
**Introduction**

Remittances is a leading motive of international migration, especially as it relates to economic development and improving standard of living of the international migrants and their household members left behind. This might have contributed to the reason of the growing trend of emigration from famous migrants’ sending zone like Benin metropolis. At the global arena, remittance is playing a leading role of national income stream as recorded remittances are now significantly larger than overseas aid flows and comprise an annual flow of around US$240 billion into the global South (Mercer, Page & Evans, 2008). Moreover, Remittance from international migrants have increased rapidly, generating debates on both sides of the Atlantic on how best to channel these transfers towards economic development. Nigeria is the largest recipient of remittances in sub-Saharan Africa (Akinrinade & Ogen, 2011), receiving nearly 65 percent of officially recorded remittance flows to the region and 2 percent of global flows.

Due to poor economic fortunes of developing nations like Nigeria, the migration has also been identified as a survival strategy by the poor to uplift their socio economic status and standard of living- especially the rural dwellers (World Bank, 2005). The assessment of the effects of migration on developing nation has remained relevant since migration acts as a catalyst in the transformation process of not only the destiny of individual migrants but also the conditions of family members left behind, local communities, and the wider sending regions (World Bank, 2005). One significant source of development for the rural populace as a result of this increasing drift towards the cities is remittances. Recently, migrants’ remittances and the income multipliers they create are becoming critical resources for the sustenance strategies of receiving households as well as agents of regional and national development (Nzeadibe and Ajaero, 2010). Households that receive these remittances tend to use the proceeds primarily for current consumption (food, clothing) as well as investments in children’s education, health care, improvement in household food and security, and water and sanitation. Nevertheless, the ability of remittances to compensate the labour shortage in rural areas is still a function of the amounts and value of remittances received by migrants’ households at home, especially in the developing countries (Nzeadibe and Ajaero, 2010).

Before embarking on migration the household and the migrants are in most cases at the very low ebb of their economic status and a poor standard of living. In some cases, the migrants are at their primary or secondary school stage. A survey by National bureau of Statistics revealed that secondary or post primary education was the predominant (51.1%) highest educational qualification that the migrants attained prior to their migration abroad (NBS, 2017). Only about 38.3 percent of them had attained tertiary education before their relocation abroad. A very few of them, 8.5% and 2.1%, had primary education and no formal education respectively, as their highest educational attainment preceding their migration abroad. The preponderance of fresh international migrants with secondary school and tertiary institution educational qualification from Benin City could be attributed to the dire need to seek for economic opportunities in Western countries as there has been a dearth of gainful employment opportunities in the last two decades in Nigeria with unemployment rate above fifteen percent in this period (NBS, 2017).

Though migrants’ remittances and the improvement of their households’ standard of living may not be measured accurately; visible spending rate and the type of houses the household occupy after migration by a member of the family suggest better proceeds via remittances. Quantitative findings through interviews revealing that migrants’ remittances had shored up the standard of living of the households (Ndisika, 2018).

**Statement of the problem**

There are indications that volume of remittances sent depends on the migrants’ family situation and tends to be higher when ties are closer. Migrants who remit the most (and most often) are generally of working age, have children or parents remaining in their countries of origin and have stayed in the country of settlement long enough to earn sufficient income to both support themselves and be able to remit something (Hugo 1998; Vargas-Lundius et al, 2008). In some cases, Visa, residency or citizenship status also influence remittance and its
It has been observed that International migrants’ remittances are an important source of income for members of their households left behind, and their communities of origin in many parts of the developing world (Arif, 2009). Moreso, migrants are forging new and innovative links with their household members, communities of origin, increasing their support through both financial contributions and ideas to their families and origin communities- at least to raise their standard of living or economic status. In some cases, the household members having migrants living abroad has nothing to show for their long-stay over there, some households seems to have a huge economic loss due to migration – support they have provided, but to no avail.

**Research Questions**
1. Has remittance contributed enough to raise economic status and standard of living of the household members?
2. Which segment of the household needs is met through remittances?

**Objective**
The objective of this study is to examine the impact of migrants’ remittances on economic status and standard of living of the households in Benin Metropolis.

**Literature Review**

**Impact of Migration and the Economic Effects of Migration**
Migration can have a range of social, cultural, political and economic effects. It involves transfer of know-how and skills, financial assets (including remittances), and the transfer of people from one location to another. Migration also has consequences for the individual, the area of origin and the area of destination – on the family, household, society, the economy and development as a whole. The effect of international migration is not limited to remittances and cash inflows alone. It includes a wide range of development issues – governance and legal protection, employment and social, protection, health services and education, tertiary education, knowledge and skills development, economic growth, financial services and growth, agriculture and rural infrastructural development, and environment issues.

Remittance inflows from Nigerians abroad are a potential economic development tool. In sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria is the largest recipient of remittances, receiving nearly 65 per cent of officially recorded remittance flows to the region and 2 per cent of global inflows. The World Bank ranked Nigeria fifth among the highest remittance-receiving countries in the world. Yet official data on remittances do not include monetary inflows through informal and unregulated channels, especially through friends returning to Nigeria and through goods sent to Nigeria which are readily converted into cash.

Nigerians in the diaspora are also active in transnational transactions and have promoted the flow of trade, capital and technology back to Nigeria. Apart from the Nigerians in the diaspora, a large number of Nigerians trade across West African countries, such as Ghana, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, the Gambia and Cameroon. Most of them establish temporary residence in these countries from where they undertake business trips to Nigeria. Their business ventures in Nigeria make considerable contribution to the local economy by providing a wide assortment of goods and services.

**Importance of Remittances and International Migration**
An important reason why migration takes place is to improve the lot of the individual and achieve human and social development. The positive impact of migration is evident in:

(i) the enhancement of the lives of individual migrants and their families;
(ii) the transformation of the places of origin, including new ways of life, more sanitary environment and living conditions, more proactive community leadership, and building of schools, health centres and others;
(iii) improved family living standards through remittances; migrants also send money home to build houses and establish cottage industries and other businesses.

The International migration can also be a way to further the family’s economic advancement, where remittances are used to enhance the long-term economic status of households through investments in capital assets that will
generate income. The use of remittances for this purpose is closely related to local markets and economic opportunities in sending communities (Lindstrom, 1996). According to Sanchez-Soto (2009), households in the developing world rely on different kinds of activities in order to meet their economic needs, and migration is a key component of these activities. The ways of using migration as an economic strategy can differ according to economic situation, resources, needs, aspirations, among other household characteristics (Itzigsohn, 1995; Massey et al., 1997). However, the major outcome from migration is its remittance. For many developing nations around the world, migrant remittances have come to play an increasingly significant role in the development process.

Remittances are even more important during tough global economic times since they can be counter-cyclical and are not as dependent on the growth prospects of receiving countries, such as other flows like foreign investment, which have profit as the ultimate motive. The role of migration and remittances in developing nations is not uniform among migrant-sending countries, which makes it a fascinating and expansive area of study. Remittance income is important because it helps increase investment in rural areas by raising the propensity to invest for migrant households, especially when the household receives international remittances. Internal remittances, on the other side, are more likely to be treated as regular income (Adams, 1998). Yang (2004) suggested that, at the household level, remittances can spur entrepreneurial activities. As remittance continues to flow, the household begins to offset its needs and seek channels of investment. Such investment provides employment for other members of the household and improves the lot of the household. In the long run, there is a possibility for the household to make income from its primary source, from the business investment and from more remittance. This will lead to better livelihood and changing of economic status from poverty to wealth.

Also, Brewer and O’Dea (2012) empirically and succinctly submitted that the standard of living of household refers to the value of housing, level of household resources, and quality of household consumption. In measuring economic status the households, standard of living was also used.

**Research Methodology**

The study adopted the survey research design.

**The Study Area**

The study area was Benin City. The reason for the choice of Benin City in Edo state is the obvious evidence of remittance within households in the state. Edo state is one of the Niger Delta states of the southern part of Nigeria and comprises 18 local government areas. Benin, is a metropolitan area and capital city of Edo state with 3 local government areas – Egor, Oredo and Ikpoba-Okha.

**Population of Study**

According to the 2006 population and Housing Census for Edo State, Egor Local Government Area has a total of 78,862 households, 90556 households for Oredo Local Government Area and 83847 households for Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area. This gave a total of 253261 households in the study area. This figure(s) appeared to be too old and out-dated since the last census in Nigeria was conducted in 2006. Hence, there was need for households’ population projection. This updated the 2006 population and housing census to the year 2016 as contained

**Sample Size**

Using the percentage of migrants’ remittances receiving households among the households with a family member living abroad which had 15% for Egor, 67% for Oredo, and 33% for Ikpoba Okha, the sample size for this study was computed with Kish (1965) survey sampling formula. According to Leslie Kish (1965) the formula for sample size was:

\[ n = \frac{Z^2 \cdot P \cdot (1-P)}{d^2} \]

Where \( Z = 95\% \) cor

\[ P = \text{proportion of the household that receives remittances in the study area.} \]

\[ q = 1 - P \]

\[ d^2 = \text{error margin} \]

where \( d^2 \) is equivalent to 1.96.


\[ d = 5\% \text{ sample error which is equivalent of 0.05} \]

**Table 1 Summary of Sample Size for the Study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local government Areas</th>
<th>Number of Households from census 2006</th>
<th>Projected figure for Households from 2006 Census to 2016 (Using 2.6 Growth Rate)</th>
<th>Percentage of households that receive remittances</th>
<th>Proportion For sample size calculations</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egor</td>
<td>78862</td>
<td>101969</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oredo</td>
<td>90552</td>
<td>117084</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikpoba– Okha</td>
<td>83847</td>
<td>108414</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>253261</strong></td>
<td><strong>327467</strong></td>
<td><strong>115</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>875</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Derived from NPC 2006 Census Priority Table, Volume IX.

**Instruments of Data Collection**
The instrument of data collection was questionnaire

**Questionnaire**
The quantitative method consisted of the semi-structured questionnaire guide. The questionnaire had multiple close ended questions and open ended questions.

**Validity and Reliability of Instruments**
In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the validity and reliability of data collection instruments was given the necessary attention, so as to ensure that the instruments of data collection (i.e. the questionnaire, and in-depth interview guide) measured what they purport to measure.

**Method of Data Collection**
The data collection approach consisted of the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods using the instruments of questionnaire, and in-depth interview (IDI) schedule

**Method of Data Analysis**
The analysis of the data was carried out using descriptive analysis with the aid of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences computer software (version 22.0). The IDI was transcribed and summarized.
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS
Economic status of the migrant’s household

Figure 1: Major source of revenue for the household

The fig. 1 above showed major source of revenue for the household. It showed that among remittances, salaries, and other sources of income, the leading source of income for most households in Benin metropolis was other sources. This is comprised profit from businesses, sales of farm produce and other gains from self-employed economic engagements. Though, remittances and salaries were considerable sources of revenue for the households, salaries were rated above remittances. A deduction from the above as contained in Fig. 1 above is that migrants’ remittances constitute about one-third of the income of households in Benin metropolis. This put forward the importance of monies households receive as remittances as a major factor in their economic status.

Table 2: Migrant remittances and household standard of living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrant remittances increase household standard of living</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result from table 2 above indicated that an overwhelming majority of the respondents (83.0%) asserted that migrants’ remittances increase household standard of living while few respondents (17.0%) decline so. This implies that remittance plays an important role in raising the standard of living of the household.

Table 3: Migrants’ remittances and level of household standard of living by acquiring assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrant remittances enable the household to acquire/invest in certain assets i.e cars, house, business etc</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>85.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The table 3 above showed the migrants’ remittances and level of household standard of living by acquiring assets. The results revealed that 85.1 percent of the household rated the impact of migrants’ remittances on their
standard of living as it helps in acquiring asset, 8.5% declined so while 6.4 respondents were undecided. This implied that
In support of the responses in the tables 2 and 3 and figure 1 above, qualitative data were collected to ascertain how these households would have fared if they were not receiving remittances. Interviewees’ responses in this regard went thus:

If my household were not receiving remittances from the migrant, our standard of living would have plummeted, no doubt about that (61 years old, Female, School Certificate holder, Trader, IDI interviewee, 21/01/2018).

Definitely, life would not have been the same. It is just unimaginable to think that this household is not receiving remittance. It will not be funny at all. Please don’t just go there because I don’t want to think about it (63 years old, Male, B.Sc holder, Trader, IDI interviewee, 22/01/2018).

Well, our household standard of living, would have been very, very low. Perhaps, we would have been feeding from hand to mouth. But I thank God almighty for his provisions through migrants remittances (71 years old, Female, B.Sc holder, Civil Servant, IDI interviewee, 22/01/2018).

Without remittances to this household, our level or standard of living would have reduced a little bit but life would have still continued (58 years old, Female, OND holder, Civil Servant, IDI interviewee, 22/01/2018).

If my household had not been receiving remittances, I do not think that life would have been any different because by the special grace of God almighty, the household have multiple sources of income that will make us live comfortably well (65 years old, Male, M.Sc holder, Businessman, IDI interviewee, 21/01/2018).

An implication of the findings observed from the tables, figures and the transcripts of the interviewees was that with the inflow of migrants’ remittances, households in Benin metropolis are exposed to high income which enables them to live in good houses, and consume quality goods and services, acquire assets, and easily attend to their needs and wants. Households acquire basic assets to improve their standard of living and measure up in the society. Where assets have been sold to send the migrant on the journey, such assets including fixed and variable assets have to be restored. Households also have their target on accumulating assets that could either fetch monetary income for them, or could be sold to raise fund.

**THE PRE AND POST REMITTANCES IMPACT ON THE ELEMENTS OF HOUSEHOLD’S STANDARD OF LIVING**

The elements of standard of living in this case include; household feeding, accommodation and residential areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4: Impact of Remittances and household feeding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Variable</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate at which household suffered lack of food before migrant migrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several times a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table 4 above showed the impact of Remittances and household feeding. Feeding is an element in measuring the economic status and standard of living of a household. The quality of household feeding was evaluated both pre-remittances reception period and post-remittances reception period. Feeding in the pre-remittances reception
period was measured with rate at which household suffered lack of food before their family member migrated, and the number of good meals (with fish, meat or eggs) they were having in a week prior to the migration abroad of their family member. In this wise, 53.2 percent, representing a majority of the household representatives affirmed that they never suffered lack of food before their family member migrated abroad (Table 4). Another set of household representatives representing 27.7 percent of the entire household representatives admitted that they sometimes suffered lack of food before their family member migrated abroad. However, 19.1 percent of the household representatives claimed that they experienced lack of food several times a year prior to the migration abroad of their family member. It is obvious that most of the households in Benin metropolis now receiving migrants’ remittances were not having serious issues with feeding even before they started receiving migrants’ remittances. This is represented in the figure 2 below:

![Figure 2: Rate at which household suffered lack of food before migrant](image-url)
Table 5: Impact of Remittances and household frequency of feeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 good meals</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 good meals</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 good meals</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 good meals</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 good meals</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 good meals</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 good meals</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 good meals</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 good meals</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 good meals</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 good meals</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 good meals</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 good meals</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>893</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 above showed the Impact of Remittances and household frequency of feeding. The emphasis here is on the quality of feeding was measured with the number of times household members could have meals that contain fish, meat, or egg in a week prior to the period they started receiving remittances from household member residing abroad. Having the ability to have the good meal for at least twice a day which amounted to fourteen times in a week was operationalized as their benchmark for quality household feeding. It was found that the majority (about 85%) of the households that participated in this study were able to have good meals at least fourteen times in a week (Table 5). Thus, only about 10.5 percent affirmed that they were unable to have more than fourteen good meals (with fish, meat or eggs) in a week. It could therefore be suggested that remittances receiving households in Benin metropolis were able to relatively consume quality food even before they started receiving migrants’ remittances. Reasons for this finding could not be far from the anecdotal evidence that food is comparatively cheap in around Benin metropolis due to the large involvement of virtually all the residents in both subsistence and commercial farming.

Table 6: Impact of remittance on household feeding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact of remittance on household feeding</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>46.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>893</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Having established from previous data that households in Benin metropolis were not constrained in having relatively good meals to eat prior to when they started receiving remittances, the evaluation of the impact that remittances had had on their feeding post-remittance reception period, was performed. A rating scale of 1 to 5 was used as the evaluation tool. Accordingly, on a scale of 1 to 5, 46.8 percent of the household representatives rated the impact of migrants’ remittances on their household feeding with 3 points; 36.2 percent rated this impact with 4 points; and 12.6 percent and 4.3 percent of the household representatives rated this impact with 5 points and 2 points respectively (Table 6). Irrespective of the confirmation by this present study that remittances receiving households in Benin metropolis were able to relatively consume quality food even before they started receiving migrants’ remittances, it could be inferred from the immediate finding that migrants remittances receiving households in Benin metropolis had had their quality of life improved greatly by the remittances.
Table 7: Impact of Remittances and household accommodation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The impact of remittances on household accommodation status</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>46.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>44.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>893</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Another aspect of household economic status and an element of standard of living examined is the quality of their accommodation. The extent to which migrants’ remittances had impacted on the accommodation of the migrants’ remittance receiving households was also assessed using a rating scale of 1 to 5 points. A larger proportion of the household representatives rated very highly the impact that remittances had had on their accommodation as over 51 percent of them gave a rating of 4 points and above, and 46.8 percent of them gave rating of 3 points.

This study conforms with Kangmennaang, Bezner-Kerr & Luginaah, (2012) finding in their study on the impact of migration and remittances on household welfare among rural households in Northern and Central Malawi which indicates that migrants’ remittance have a positive effect on rural household asset accumulation, and similar effects on rural household welfare. A deduction from the foregoing finding points to the fact that international migrants’ households in Benin metropolis have access to relatively more funds. Hence, they have the capacity to engage in capital expenditures that are geared towards investment which could produce more funds either in the short run or in the long run thereby improves their standard of living.

Also, this finding is in tandem with that of Vladicescu et al. (2008) which entails the fact that migrants’ remittances boosted the ability of families in Moldova to improve their housing. An indication of the preceding finding of this present study is that with the migrants’ remittances that households in Benin metropolis have been receiving they have been able to afford to live in better accommodation compared to the type they were living during the pre-remittances reception period.

Summary

This study has examined impact of migrants’ remittances on economic status and standard of living of the households. The research was done in line with the objective and the research question of the study. The data obtained from 893 respondents of three selected LGAs in the Benin Metropolis.

Conclusion

- Remittances is an important economic status determinants especially among the migrants’ household as it contributed one-third sources (29.8%) of the income for households in Benin metropolis.
- Majority of the respondents (83.0%) asserted that migrants’ remittances increase household standard of living and affirmed that monies households receive as remittances is a major factor in their economic status.
- 85.1 percent of the household rated the impact of migrants’ remittances on their standard of living as it helps in acquiring asset and other valuables.
- Many IDI interviewees also attested to the gains of remittance as it relates to their economic status and standard of living.
- 53.2 percent, representing a majority of the household representatives affirmed that they never suffered lack of food before their family member migrated abroad and it was found that the majority (about 85%) of the households that participated in this study were able to have good meals at least fourteen times in a week.
Migrants’ remittances receiving households in Benin metropolis had had their quality of life improved greatly by the remittances. Over 51 percent, of the household representatives rated very highly the impact that remittances had had on their accommodation.

Recommendations

1. Well-streamlined measures should be adopted by all stakeholders to ensure easy flow of migrants’ remittances. This will benefit not only the household but the community and the entire nation especially in cushion the effect of economic hardship on the Nigerians and improving the economic status and standard of living.

2. There should be judicious use of hard-earned remittances by the household communities to encourage the international migrants to do more.

3. There should be a nexus between international communities to allow international transfers of funds to aid easy transmitting of the remittances back home.

REFERENCES
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