



DEMOSTAF

Demography Statistics for Africa

*Emerging population issues in Sub-Saharan Africa:
Cross-checking and promoting demographic data for better action*

Newsletter n°4 July-December 2017

2017 collective workshop and mid-term evaluation • DEMOSTAF at the 2017 International Population Conference • Focus on... mortality estimates based on census data • Changes in project coordination • 4th semester secondments • Upcoming seminars • 2018 events

2017 collective workshop and mid-term evaluation

The workshop held from mid-September to mid-October gathered numerous researchers and statisticians with 20 secondments organized in the different scientific Work Packages (2 to 5). Several seminars and meetings across WP were organized in Paris: our statistician colleagues could attend several INSEE seminars: a September seminar of the Department of demography and social statistics, a meeting with the North-African delegation hosted at INSEE and a seminar on Sustainable Development Goals. Several research seminars have also been organised: one on research ethics in Africa by Claudine Sauvain-Dugerdil and one on IPUMS-I by Lara Cleveland. Participants of the workshops had also the opportunity to attend the INED seminars, notably a presentation by Bruno Lankoande on mortality and migration in Burkina Faso as well as a scientific day on young people in rural areas. Informal events have also been organised, including a sunny cruise on the Seine River, with a spectacular view of the Eiffel Tower.



About 40 people attended the mid-term meeting that was held at INED on the 29th of September 2017 with the presence of our Project Officer from the European Commission Research Executive Agency, Aleksandra Schoetz-Sobczak. Following the meeting, she sent us very positive feedback regarding the project partnership, coordination and progress. Her recommendations were related to the efforts that should be made to maintain the number of secondments as initially planned, given that the number secondments conducted until now is below our previsions:

notably by increasing the duration of the secondments and by reducing short secondments which represent a financial burden for our research budget and by integrating new partners. She also reminded us that the



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results related to the project should be published in open access and suggested that we maintain our communication activities within the project but also toward the general public. Do not hesitate to share with us any suggestions on any of these aspects!

DEMOSTAF at 2017 International Population Conference

The 2017 International Population Conference organised by the IUSSP was held in Cape Town, South Africa from the 29th of October to the 4th of November 2017. In total, 28 DEMOSTAF participants attended the conference, half of which benefited from financial support from DEMOSTAF. This important support allowed DEMOSTAF to be considered by UIESP as one of the sponsors of the conference and participants were able to notice the good location of the project logo in the sponsors' presentation. The conference also gave the project participants the opportunity to present the project progress to the members of our Scientific Advisory Board during a side meeting organised on the 30th of October on the conference premises.



Focus on... mortality estimates based on census data (WP3)

Ideally, mortality levels and trends are known thanks to deaths and their causes that are collected through civil registration systems. However, the collection of deaths remains uncompleted in most African countries. Survey and census data therefore constitute the main sources of information, but they are tainted with errors (under-report of past deaths, uncertain age and cause of deaths, etc). In order to evaluate the quality of this data, several participants from WP3 conduct research from Health and demographic surveillance system (HDSS) sites, where limited groups of population are regularly monitored through repeated data collection. Researchers and statisticians from ISSP, INSD, UCL and INED, in collaboration with the centre for health research in Nouna (CRSN), compared mortality estimates from the 2006 Burkina Faso national census with the data collected through the Nouna DSS.

Even though the number of people counted in the 2006 census is very close to the group of population monitored in the HDSS (Figure 1), they observed discrepancies between the mortality levels that can be estimated from the reported deaths in the census and the ones registered continuously in the zone for the same period.

The child mortality rate obtained indirectly from reports on the number of children born, alive and deceased are globally similar to the HDSS mortality rates (Figure 2). However, the adult mortality rates inferred from the information collected on parents' survival are much too low. On average, they were about 40% lower than the expected levels. The life expectancy estimated using deaths occurred in the households during the 12 months prior to the census is also lower than the one estimated using the demographic monitoring: there is a gap of 3 years for men and 7 years for women. The errors regarding the age of people over 60 years old and the under-report of their deaths have been identified as the main reasons for the life expectancy discrepancies.



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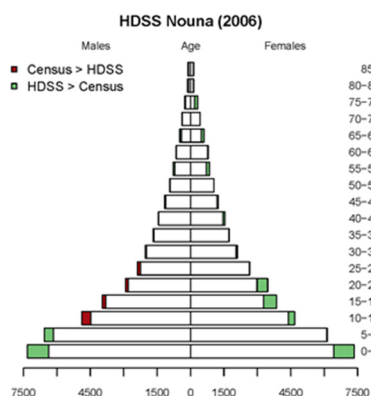


Figure 1. Population pyramid of Nouna, in December 2006, according to the census and to the HDSS.

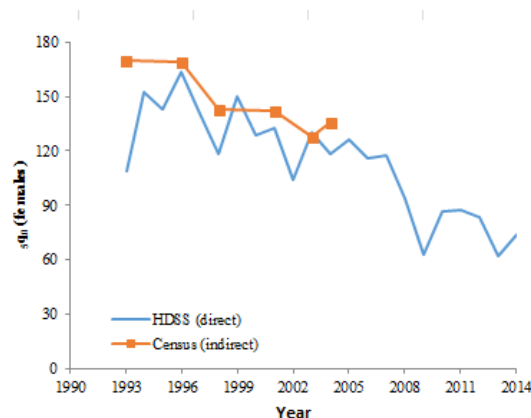


Figure 2. Mortality levels of boys under 5 years old (5q0) estimated in the HDSS (in blue) and according to the census (in orange).

Since the observatory emphasises greatly on precise and regular data collection, it is likely that the mortality rate has been under-estimated in the 2006 census in the zone, in particular regarding women. A deeper analysis at the individual level is necessary to understand the reasons for the discrepancy between the census and the demographic monitoring. In the long run, this triangulation of the data should help improve data collection, for instance, by identifying questions that should be rewritten or by reinforcing the training of census agents on certain questions.

Changes in the project coordination

- WP1 project coordination

Catherine Daurèle has taken new work responsibilities. *Thomas Wiest*, recruited by INED as European Affairs Officer becomes the new project manager for DEMOSTAF. Thomas got quickly involved in the project (even before his official start when he attended the September project meetings), he was even given the opportunity to participate to the International Population Conference. If you need to contact him: thomas.wiest@ined.fr. As you all know, Catherine played a key role in the success of the project proposal, the implementation and the daily management of the project. Despite new work responsibilities, Catherine maintained her involvement managing the project until the arrival of her replacement. Catherine has always been efficient and responsive to all the requests from the hundred of participants involved in the project, always being friendly and understanding, which we have very much appreciated. We send her many thanks you from all of us!

- WP2 Fertility and reproductive health

Blessing Mberu (APHRC) unfortunately does not have sufficient time to coordinate the WP2 with Clémentine Rossier (Unige). *Binta Dième* (ANSD) has accepted to take over the co-coordination of this WP. Thank you to Blessing for accepting to support the project from its start and thank you to Binta for taking over.

- WP6 Dissemination

The start of the DEMOSTAF project coincided with the temporary departure of Cheikh Tidiane Ndiaye from ANSD who is therefore not able to actively contribute to the project. His support was key during the writing of the DEMOSTAF project proposal since the project was an extension of several existing projects, notably the MADAS project collaboratively conducted by ANSD, INED and IRD. *Jean-Alain Goudiaby* (Univ Ziguinchor) has accepted to take over the coordination of WP6 along with Gilles Pison. Both of them will be very involved



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in the organisation of the next internal seminar to be held in December 2018 and the international conference organised in late 2019 towards the end of the project.

DEMOSTAF secondments for the 2nd semester 2017

Laure Moguérrou (UPO) at ODSEF in July-August (WP5), Norbert Kpadonou (UCL) at ISSP in July-August (WP4), Abdoul Moumouni Nouhou (UNIGE) at ANSD in July-August (WP4), Claudine Sauvain-Dugerdil (Unige) at ANSD in July-August (WP4), Marc Pilon (IRD) at ODSEF in August (WP5), Valérie Delaunay (IRD) at ODSEF in August (WP5), Abdramane Bassiahi Soura (ISSP) at UCL in August and December (WP3), Jean-Alain Goudiaby (UZ) at INED in September-October (WP5), Julio Rakotonirina (INSPC) at UCL in September-October (WP3), Rila Ratovoson (IPM) at UCL in October (WP3), Frédérique Andriamaro (UCM) at IRD-LPED in September-October (WP5), Karim Diawara Abdoul (INSTAT Mali) at INED in September-October (WP4), Assa Dioumba Gakou (INSTAT Mali) at INED in September-October (WP4), Baguinébié Bazongo (INSD) at INED in September-October (WP4), Edouard Guissou (INSD) at INED in September-October (WP5), Paul Sawadogo (INSD) at INED in September-October (WP4), Hélène Zida Bangré (INSD) at UCL in September-October (WP3), Ester Belemwidougou (ISSP) at IRD-CEPED in September-October (WP5), Moussa Bougma (ISSP) at IRD-CEPED in September-October (WP4), Bilampoa Gnoumou (ISSP) at INED in September-October (WP4), Jean-François Kobiané (ISSP) at IRD-CEPED in September-October (WP5), Madeleine Wayack-Pambè (ISSP) at INED in September-October (WP5), Jean-Pierre Diamane Bahoum (ANSD) at INED in September-October (WP4), Adjibou Oppa Barry (ANSD) at INED in September-October (WP5), Binta Dième (ANSD) at INED in September-October (WP2), Pape Mabeye Diop (ANSD) at INED in September-October (WP4), Mahmoud Diouf (ANSD) at INED in September-October (WP4), Mouhamadou Diallo (UCAD) at UCL in September-October (WP3), Rila Ratovoson (IPM) at INED in October (WP3), Bruno Lankoandé (UCL) at ISSP in October-December (WP3), Ibrahima Diouf (ANSD) at UCL in October (WP3), Samba Ndiaye (ANSD) at UCL 2017 in October (WP3), Souleymane Sanogo (ISSP) at UCL in November-December (WP3)

Upcoming seminars and conferences

In 2018, several conferences on population will take place: The American Population Conference (PAA, 26-28 April, Denver), the European Population Conference (EAPS, 6-9 June, Brussels), the conference of French-speaking demographers along with the Chaire Quételet (AIDELF, 28-31 August, Louvain-la-neuve), a conference on education in Western Africa (Univ Ziguinchor, 7-9 November, Ziguinchor).

Next event: the 2018 edition of our collective workshop and internal seminar in Paris

The next DEMOSTAF collective workshop will be held in Europe from mid-November to mid-December 2018. It will give us the opportunity to organise the project internal progress report meeting that will be held in early December at INED. This seminar will allow us to work on the structure of the collective books that we plan to submit to the INED editions at the end of 2019. Until then, activities and secondment are planned within each Work Package.

Coordination team

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Scientific coordinator: Géraldine Duthé - Project manager: Thomas Wiest - Coordination assistants: Léa Boursset & Christine Gandrille



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