

31 May 2016  
Scientific workshop

***The challenges of demographic data in Sub-Saharan Africa  
in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

Organized by  
DEMOSTAF, Pôle PI, IUSSP & UR DEMOSUD

At INED  
133 bd Davout 75020 Paris

In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeeded to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In order to monitor progress towards SDG targets, a specific attention is given to improve the quality, availability and access to data and statistics disaggregated by various characteristics: income, gender, age, geographic location... Urgent steps should be taken to ensure that no one is left behind. This is why the post-2015 agenda is closely linked to the “Data Revolution”, an international initiative that aims to improve the quality of statistics as well as information available to citizens.

Despite important progress achieved during the first fifteen years of the new millennium, efforts need to be maintained and sub-Saharan Africa must receive special attention because it has lagged behind on achieving several MDG targets. In addition, the evidence based on population dynamics in Africa remains limited. There is a dramatic deficit of classical demographic data at the national level which has been referred to as a “scandal of invisibility”. Very few African countries have a comprehensive system of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS). There are major issues with national statistical systems in their ability to provide reliable and high-quality population data, and this translates into large uncertainties around demographic levels and trends. To address these critical gaps, the collection of data supported by development partners and academic groups has multiplied since the 1980s. In particular, large retrospective sample surveys have been conducted, including as the Demographic and Health surveys (DHS). Another prominent data source on population trends in Africa are Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems (HDSS).

The purpose of this scientific seminar is to give an overview of the different challenges related to demographic data in Sub-Saharan Africa in the framework of the SDGs and identify levers to overcome these constraints.

## Agenda

9.00-9.15 Welcome

**9.15-9.30 Introduction**, by Magda Tomasini, Head of INED

**9.30-10.30 Demographic data in sub-Saharan Africa and the SDGs implementation**

Geoffrey Greenwell (OECD, Paris21) - *SDGs and leaving no one behind: Costs of measuring the SDGs*

Aminata Diallo Diarra (UNFPA) - *The major role of the National Statistical System (NSS) for measuring the SDGs in sub-Saharan Africa and particularly in Mali*

10.30-11.00 Break

**11.00-12.00 How to ensure that no one is left behind?**

Gloria Waithira Mathenge (UNECA) - *Progress in strengthening Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) over recent years*

Sara Randall (University College London) - *Where have all the nomads gone? Fifty years of statistical and demographic invisibilities of African mobile pastoralists*

12.00-13.30 Lunch

**13.30-15.00 What is the role of DHS and HDSS in monitoring SDG targets?**

Tom Pullum (DHS Programme) - *How the DHS Program will be involved in the monitoring of the SDGs*

Martin Bangha (INDEPTH network) - *The input of HDSS sites to the SDGs*

Stéphane HELLERINGER (Johns Hopkins University) - *Improving demographic data in Low-income countries: new approaches and initial results*

15.00-15.30 Break

**15.30-17.00 Harnessing the “Data Revolution”**

Patrick Gerland (UNPD) - *Inventory of demographic censuses and surveys (Data Catalog) and virtual archiving of published results (Data Archive).*

Patricia Kelly Hall (Ipums-International) - *Microdata Revolution in Africa*

Tom Legrand (Université de Montréal, IUSSP) - *Data Revolution: a seductive slogan or a program of action?*