

Rural-Urban Distribution of Population

The characteristics which distinguish urban from rural areas varies from country to country. As a result of this variation, there is no universal definition for rural and urban. Until recently, there existed no standard criteria for defining urban settlements in The Gambia. Institutions have, over the years, identified urban areas based on their own criteria, the most common being population size, the type of economic activity and the level of infrastructural development. In the 1983 census, Banjul and Kanifing were treated as urban areas for the purpose of presentation of some tables.

2.1 Criteria for Urban Areas

With rapid population growth of large settlements, mainly due to the movement of people from the villages, a felt need was expressed from many quarters for the adoption of a standard definition of urban areas. In response to this need, the Central Statistics Department proposed that a scientific approach be taken to adopt a national definition for urban areas. The Department in collaboration with the Department of Physical Planning and other Ministries and Departments concerned identified settlements as urban if they satisfied most of the following criteria:-

- (i) Commercial importance
- (ii) Institutional importance
- (iii) Majority of population should be non-agricultural in occupation
- (iv) Population should be 5,000 and above
- (v) Density should be high
- (vi) Some degree of infrastructural facilities should be available

It has been decided to disaggregate the census results by rural and urban settlements wherever necessary. Urban areas which are adjacent to each other, constituting a continuous urban spread are clubbed together to form Urban Agglomerations (U.A). The names of such U.A's, their constituent urban areas and other urban areas may be found in Table 2.1.

Over the years, it has been extremely difficult to demarcate distinctly the boundaries of the urban units which constitute the Kanifing urban agglomeration. Most of the units which three decades ago were settlements completely detached from each other, have, due to rapid population growth, expanded to form a large urban agglomeration. The absence of distinct landmarks or any official boundary separating the settlements has made it difficult to demarcate settlement boundaries for the area and this has been the cause of boundary disputes between some of the settlements. Although topographic maps of the area have been prepared by the Department of Physical Planning, Settlement boundaries have not been demarcated due to this problem.

The Central Statistics Department during census mapping exercises have attempted to demarcate Settlement boundaries for the Kanifing area with the assistance of village heads (Alkalo) and Area Council Officials. This exercise has always proved difficult due to the

existence of disputed areas. The creation of new settlements, rapid expansion of the area coupled with changes of Alkalo over the years, meant that with almost every census there has been a change in settlement boundaries for the area. The problem is further complicated by settlements bordering Kombo North merging with settlements on the other side of the border as a result of rapid expansion. The existence of un-official names for some areas in the Kanifing urban agglomeration is yet another problem in the demarcation of settlement boundaries for the area (e.g London Corner, Churchill's Town, Kanifing etc.)

During the mapping for the 1993 Population and Housing Census, an attempt was made to demarcate the boundaries of all officially recognised settlements. To solve the problem of disputed areas, assistance was sought from Municipal Council officials and Alkalolu of settlements concerned in the demarcation of settlements boundaries. The exercise resulted in the adoption of settlement boundaries some of which differed from those of the 1983 Population and Housing Census. To facilitate comparability, the settlement boundaries for 1983 have been redefined to match those of the 1993 Population and Housing Census. As a result of this adjustment, the 1983 population figures for the settlements were accordingly changed. The resultant population figures of settlements, therefore, differ from the figures published in volume 4 of the 1983 Population and Housing Census which were based on earlier settlement boundaries as existed in 1983. It is difficult to derive comparable population figures for the urban units in Kanifing U.A. in 1973 and hence the adjusted figures for 1973 for these units are not given.

TABLE 12
GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	URBAN AGGLOMERATION (UA)/URBAN UNIT	POPULATION			ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH (%)	
		1973	1983	1993	1973-83	1983-93
Banjul	Banjul	39,476	44,188	42,326	1.13	- 0.43
Kanifing	Kanifing U. A.	38,934	101,504	228,214	10.06	8.44
	Constituent Units					
	<i>i Bakau Newtown</i>	-	17,361	26,687	-	4.40
	<i>i Bakau Wasulun</i>	-	612	2,195	-	13.62
	<i>ii Manjai Kunda</i>	-	1,830	4,800	-	10.12
	<i>iv Kotu</i>	-	374	4,419	-	28.01
	<i>v Kololi</i>	-	1,202	4,416	-	13.90
	<i>vi Bakoteh</i>	-	1,262	6,594	-	17.98
	<i>vii Old Jeshwang</i>	-	2,276	8,480	-	14.06
	<i>viii Latri Kunda</i>	-	14,713	22,902	-	4.52
	<i>ix New Jeshwang</i>	-	6,711	21,656	-	12.43
	<i>x Dippa Kunda</i>	-	8,628	15,081	-	5.74
	<i>xi Serre Kunda</i>	-	11,381	18,901	-	5.20
	<i>xii Ebo Town</i>	-	1,287	2,563	-	7.13
	<i>xiii Bununka Kunda</i>	-	18,831	41,369	-	8.19
	<i>xiv Talinding Kunjang</i>	-	6,608	19,773	-	11.58
	<i>xv Latri kunda Sabiji</i>	-	2,850	11,289	-	14.76
	<i>xvi Abuko</i>	-	444	4,345	-	25.62
	<i>xvii Faji Kunda</i>	-	5,134	12,744	-	9.52

TABLE 12 (Contd)
GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	URBAN AGGLOMERATION (UA)/URBAN UNIT	POPULATION			ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH (%)	
		1973	1983	1993	1973-83	1983-93
Brikama	Brikama	9,483	19,624	41,761	7.54	7.85
Mansakonko	Mansakonko U. A.	2,667	6,911	10,206	9.99	3.98
	Constituent Units					
	<i>i Mansakonko</i>	320	306	240	- 0.45	- 2.4
	<i>ii Soma</i>	1,267	4,789	7,988	14.22	5.25
	<i>iii Pakalinding</i>	1,080	1,816	1,978	5.33	0.86
Kerewan	Barra U. A.	2,154	4,554	8,743	7.77	6.74
	Constituent Units					
	<i>i Barra</i>	1,203	2,504	4,257	7.61	5.45
	<i>ii Essau</i>	951	2,050	4,486	7.98	8.15
	Kerewan	2,166	3,173	3,403	3.89	0.70
	Farafenni	3,387	10,168	20,956	11.62	7.50
Kuntaur	Kaur U. A.	3,733	5,149	5,305	3.27	0.30
	Constituent Units					
	<i>i Kaur Janneh Kunda</i>	999	1,211	1,335	1.94	1.00
	<i>ii Kaur Touray Kunda</i>	949	1,433	1,670	4.21	1.54
	<i>iii Kaur Wharf Town</i>	1,785	2,505	2,300	3.45	- 0.85
Georgetown	Georgetown	2,510	3,068	2,813	2.03	- 0.86
	Bansang	2,119	3,963	5,743	6.46	3.78

TABLE 12 (Contd)

GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	URBAN AGGLOMERATION (UA)/URBAN UNIT	POPULATION			ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH (%)	
		1973	1983	1993	1973-83	1983-93
Basse	Basse U. A.	6,060	9,477	15,635	4.57	5.13
	Constituent Units					
	<i>i Basse Nding</i>	-	168	355	-	7.15
	<i>ii Basse Santo-Su</i>	2,899	5,371	9,265	6.36	5.60
	<i>iii Giroba Kunda</i>	247	279	429	1.23	4.40
	<i>iv Kaba Kama</i>	720	906	1,862	2.32	7.47
	<i>v Koba Kunda</i>	247	267	484	0.78	6.13
	<i>vi Manneh Kunda</i>	817	1,038	1,381	2.42	2.90
	<i>vii Mansajang Kunda</i>	951	1,312	1,573	3.27	1.83
	<i>viii Wellingara (Sare Samba Tako)</i>	-	136	286	-	7.72
	Total Urban population	112,689	211,779	385,105	6.51	6.16