

LINK BETWEEN THE GUINEA-BISSAU DHS AND PRIORITY SURVEY

1. The objective of this note is to examine what linkages could be established between the Bissau-Guinean Demographic and Health Survey DHS (Inquerito Demografico e Sanitario: IDS) and the Priority Survey (Inquerito Ligeiro Junto as Familias: ILJF), in order to increase their analysis opportunities.

I. MAIN FEATURES OF EACH SURVEY

2. The IDS collected information in 1989 on demographic and health issues at the individual and the household level. The sample size was initially planned with 2,660 households but 2,360 households were effectively interviewed and used for the analysis. This corresponds to a sample of 15,280 individuals. The results refer to the following topics:

- (i) household composition: sex, age, marital status, relationship, ethnicity;
- (ii) health: general status of health, type of disease or pain, reasons of disease or pain, sick leave (from work or school), number of leave days, health care received, access to hospital, number of medical consultations, distance to a health center, AIDS related questions;
- (iii) housing and sanitation: materials for the walls and the roof, access to water, time to fetch the water, washing facilities;
- (iv) education: grade completed, language spoken;
- (v) professional situation: status of work, time worked, if not working why, type of work, company or institution, means of transportation;
- (vi) consumption habits: smoking frequency, duration of smoking, number and frequency of meals, composition of meals, consumption frequency of food products, of drinks, of alcohol, frequency of listening to the radio;
- (v) fertility: recent births, frequency of deaths, pregnancy, miscarriage, expected number of children, contraceptive habits, frequency of medical consultation, access to health services, wedding age, age at first birth, vaccination, feeding habits, weaning;

3. Four strata have been considered in the IDS. These are: Bissau, the North province (which include the towns of Biombo, Cacheu and Oio), the East province (which includes the towns of Bafata and Gabu) and the South province. Information has been collected during the months of April, May, June and July 1989. All these characteristics of the IDS are essential to explore the possibility of relating the results of the two surveys. As a whole, few socio-economic information such as consumption, expenditure, or income, have been collected. Only the working status and the type of work could be used as explanatory variables of a specific socio-economic behavior.

methodologies in the design of the two surveys to allow easy comparison and linkages among the variables.

7. Both surveys were done at the household level. Therefore it could have been possible to link the results of the two surveys to undertake some economic explanation (through econometric functions) and to make comparisons between the results at the household level. However this should have implies: (i) a common sample frame to refer to the same distribution of households through the country, (ii) to select the same sample, or at least a common sub-sample of households for each survey, and (iii) to use compatible nomenclatures for questions which are equivalent or related. Unfortunately none of these conditions have been met. The reasons are sometimes technical: the sampling frame for the ILJF was the one of the 1991 Census which is the most accurate, the sampling frame of the IDS was the one of the 1979 Census, which is not existing anymore. No work has been done to relate the two sampling frame and see the differences. Other reasons are related to the human resources of the Directorate of Statistics: the statistician in charge of the ILJF was also in charge of the Census. He was new, just coming from the University of Louvain, and had no been at the DGE during the IDS. He therefore did not know where to get the information on the sample and the households selected.

8. At the regional (or strata) level, it would have been necessary to use the same definition for the regions. The IDS has four regions: Bissau, North, East, and South. The ILJF has five regions: Bissau, and four other urban areas, and three rural: North, East, and South. In socio-economic studies it is essential to make a difference between urban and rural areas since the behavior in terms of income, expenses, consumption is strongly different. There are, therefore, two difficulties: (i) the three regions North, East, and South include the urban areas in the IDS and are only rural in the ILJF, and (ii) the limits of the town of Bissau are defined according the 1979 Census cartographical work in the IDS and the 1991 Census cartographical work in the ILJF. In that last case the town of Bissau may represent a greater area with more suburban population. However comparisons could be done for the data concerning Bissau, taking into account this fact.

9. At the national level, comparisons can be made for some of the variables in order to crosscheck the results of the ILJF with the results of the IDS. The difficulty will come from the difference between the items observed and the nomenclature. However it will be possible to compare the following variables:

- (i) **population:** gender, age structure, ethnic group;
- (ii) **housing:** materials for wall and roof, water facilities;
- (iii) **health:** medical consultation, sick leaves;
- (iv) **education:** grade completed;
- (v) **employment:** type of work, status of work;
- (vi) **food consumption:** type of products, drinks;

10. Some information of the ILJF may complement the information given by the IDS: cost of consulting a doctor, distance to the source of water, socio-economic status.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11. In the current context, it is quite difficult to link the results of the two surveys: at the household and regional levels for the reasons presented above. At the national level, some comparisons of results are possible and the surveys may have results that complement, increasing the overall knowledge.

12. The only possibility to relate the two sets of data is based on the determination, in each case, of the main socio-economic and target groups. If these groups are the same, in both cases, then it may be possible to draw conclusions linking aggregated results of the two surveys. This approach, which may be time-consuming, implies extra analytical work on the two sets of data using appropriate statistical tools.