

---

**UN/POP/MIG/2002/7**

20 June 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

---

**COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**

Population Division

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

New York, 11-12 July 2002

**PRESENTATION OF CERPOD ACTIVITIES ON  
COLLECTION OF DATA RELATED TO  
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION \***

Center for Studies and Research on Population  
and Development (CERPOD), Sahel Institute \*\*

---

\* This document was reproduced without formal editing.

\*\* CERPOD, Sahel Institute, Bamako, Mali. The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

---

## PRESENTATION OF CERPOD ACTIVITIES ON COLLECTION OF DATA RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION <sup>1</sup>

By ISSAKA MAGA Hamidou, expert in charge of the Program  
Support to data collection and analysis » at CERPOD

The Center for Studies and Research on Population and Development (CERPOD) is the major program « Population and Development » of Sahel Institute (INSAH) based in Bamako in Mali (West Africa). INSAH includes another major program dedicated to agro-socioeconomic activities. INSAH is one of the technical agencies of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) which was established in 1973 by Sahel countries governments. The general objective of CERPOD is to identify through research, the socio-demographic constraints to sustainable development in the Sahel, and propose options for solutions. With regard to research, CERPOD includes 5 programs: (1) Migrations and Urbanization, (2) Health and Society, (3) Gender, Family and Development, (4) Population, Environment and Development, and (5) Support to Data Collection and Analysis. There are also two more Operational Units including one addressing population policies and the other dedicated to strengthening institutional capacities in Sahelian countries. (Internet sites : <http://www.insah.org> ; <http://www.cilssnet.org> ).

### 1. Types of data collected on migrations

At the moment, CERPOD is no more in a position to continue collecting migration data in routine or on a regular basis, due to lack of financial means. However, between 1992 and 2001, CERPOD mainly collected data on African migrations, by applying the two following methodological approaches:

- Biography type surveys conducted in several African countries and
- The Population Observatory of Kolondieba focusing on a Mali sub-regional target population of about 10 000 inhabitants.

#### 1.1. Surveys on migrations and urbanization in West Africa

This is a series of specific surveys carried out between December 1992 and September 1993 in 8 west African countries including 5 Sahelian countries (Burkina, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) and 3 other west African countries (Ivory Coast, Guinea-Conakry and Nigeria). These surveys were prepared and executed through a network that was established and named « Network of Migrations and Urbanization in West Africa » (NESMUWA or REMUAO in French). In addition to CERPOD and national institutions of the involved countries, the network also includes researchers of the demography department of the University of Montreal, the French Center for Population and Development (CEPED) and the Research Institute for Development (IRD, former ORSTOM).

The network was financed and supported by several donors including the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the French Cooperation Agency and the World Bank.

---

<sup>1</sup> Information drawn from this presentation comes from CERPOD's official publications.

Surveys carried out under this project had essentially attempted to catch migratory biographies. In each country, data were collected on the basis of a stratified representative sample according to the first administrative division and the place of residence (urban/rural).

The questionnaires used for data collection are of 5 types: household, emigrant, biography, in-depth, village and neighborhood questionnaires.

### **Household questionnaire**

The household questionnaire is very close to most of census questionnaires. Questions are on sex, date of birth (or current age), kinship link with the head of household, status of residence, as well as ethnic group, marital status, education, activity (type, statute, sector). **Questions related to migration concern the place of residence at birth, place of previous residence, as well as migratory status in order to determine if the respondent is eligible to the retrospective questionnaire and in-depth questionnaires.**

### **Emigrant questionnaire**

The emigrant questionnaire is a specific questionnaire added to the classical household questionnaire. The surveyor has to draw up a list of all individuals in the household who have lived at least 6 months out of their residence during the last 5 years preceding the survey. The head of household or by defect the eldest member answered questions on social characteristics (sex, age, kinship link with head of household) of emigrants, as well as on their age at departure, their place of destination (inside the country or international) and the motives of departure. **It is to be noted that the emigrant questionnaire should mainly allow to measure international migration in the last 5 years preceding the survey.** This limitation to 5 years is a compromise between the need to collect representative data on international migration because the questionnaire can record only one single migration. Migratory matrices should consequently be calculated for the same period of time.

### **Migration biography questionnaire**

The biography questionnaire is the heart of the survey. **It was designed to record all residences of 6 months minimum since birth up to the time of the survey. It includes questions relative to places of residence, main activity exerted in that place (type, status and sector), the level of education reached and marital status at the end of the step, and age at end of step as well as reason for departure.**

### **In-depth questionnaires**

Three types of in-depth questionnaires were designed.

- The first addressed to non-migrants who were asked to explain the reasons of their non-migration, and their opinion on migration and migrants who had left the village or neighborhood.
- **The second questionnaire addressed immigrants aged 15 years and over (not living in their place of birth) residing in the place of survey for at least 5 years: questions were on the reasons to migrate from the place of birth, reasons and conditions in which they made their last migration and the possible advantage that could take therefrom the people who had staid in the place of birth, the goods and money gifts they can send to their place of birth.**
- **Almost all the same questions were asked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> type of questionnaire for return migrants in their place of birth for less than 10 years, and questions regarding the last migration were adopted accordingly.** The definition of migration used for in-depth

questionnaires should not be confused with the one used in the retrospective questionnaire addressing all migrants either they have migrated or not during the last 5 or 10 years.

### **Village and neighborhood questionnaires**

These questionnaires address the census of infrastructures available and the knowledge of opinions on migration in order to understand the socioeconomic situation prevailing in the places of origin and destination of migrants, to relate these information to measures made to help the other questionnaires. They also were intended to overview the opinion expressed by authorities on migration, in the prospect to better know their views rather than migration determinants.

It should be noted that CERPOD has also collected data on migrations in the years 1980 through 2 successive surveys in Senegal River Valley; in 1996 with a survey on migrants' insertion in Bamako in 1992, and in 2001 in Burkina Faso, on the problematic of « Migrations, urban insertion and environment ».

#### **1.2. Kolondièba Population Observatory**

The Population Observatory of Kolondièba (KPO) was operational from 1997 to the year 2000, on the basis of routine data collection during about 2 years and half. In fact, KPO was build like a demographic surveillance system that collected longitudinal information every quarter with 10 questionnaires<sup>2</sup> also including questions related to migrations. **Two questionnaires were especially dedicated to internal and external migrations: one to emigration and the other to immigration. The definition of migration here refers to a duration equal or higher than 3 months with respect to the place of residence at birth. Data collected allow to follow migratory movements every 3 months, by using exit and entry dates. Questionnaires also allow to know the causes of emigrations and immigrations, lengths of stays or absences, places of destination, place of previous residence, migrants citizenship, etc.**

The other KPO questionnaires allow to know for the whole target population (migrants and non-migrants): the economic and demographic characteristics; behaviors, knowledge and practices in general health, reproductive health, children's health, etc.

The observed target population includes a little more than 10 000 inhabitants of a sub-region (Kolondièba district) of Sikasso region located in southern Mali, near the border with Ivory Cost, a country where the immigrant population is very important. The KPO sample represents 1/3 of the population of a total of 40 villages located in 3 districts ("arrondissement" in French) in Kolondièba department. The choice of villages was made on the basis of a reasoned choice made among a number of agricultural criteria and also the importance of migrations. On this basis, **3 areas considered as distinct were identified: one with high production and medium migration; a second one with medium agricultural production and low migration level and finally a third area with a high level of agricultural production and important migratory movements.**

## **2. Objectives of data collection on migrations**

Biography surveys such are Kolondièba Population Observatory are inscribed in a prospect of basic and operations research.

---

<sup>2</sup> There is also one questionnaire on village socio-economic characteristics which is supposed to collect data once in a year.

## **2.1. Objectives of surveys on migrations and urbanization in West Africa**

NESMUWA was established to partly fill through surveys, analyses and meetings, the numerous gaps existing in the knowledge and insufficiency of statistical data on migration phenomena in West Africa. The network should also give the opportunity to stimulate multi-disciplinary research, international scientific collaboration and sensitization of political and technical stakeholders with a view to better addressing migration related issues in development policies and programs.

The general objectives aimed are of 3 types.

1. To make an in-depth analysis of development policies and their impact on population ; displacements as well as on migration policies (either explicit or not) ;
2. Identify the migration phenomenon, its metric aspects, causes, macro-social consequences on populations, more particularly migrants living conditions ;
3. Make policy recommendations in the areas of population and human resources, rural and urban development, and regional economic integration.

## **2.2. Objectives of data collection on migrations in the framework of KPO**

KPO is the fruit of collaboration between Save The Children (US) NGO and CERPOD, with USAID financial support. In addition to producing reliable and updated statistics, KPO should essentially allow Save The Children to measure the efficiency of its programs relating to preventive and curative health, education and literacy, funding in the form of loans to women's market activities, digging of drillings and wells allowing access to drinking water, awareness campaign of populations to health in general, reproductive health, etc. In this prospect of operations research and basic research (measures and analyses of observed phenomena), two main targets were assigned to KPO:

1. Evaluate the impact of specific interventions on the health condition and behavior of a population defined in time and space ;
2. Develop a longitudinal system of data collection built from a standard platform of demographic surveillance systems that must include more detailed quantitative and qualitative information on health and development behavior.

More precisely, some specific objectives are aimed:

1. Develop a rigorous data collection and management system to perform regular and accurate measure of demographic events, health condition and health knowledge and Behaviors ;
2. Develop a flexible system of data collection and management that can be adapted to different contexts with new types of information ;
3. Draw up a report submission time table in order to ensure dissemination of results to be used by researchers and program planners at all levels (local health centers, NGOs, Health Ministry, etc.);
4. Develop a model allowing to review the dynamics of behavioral change in health in relation to specific program interventions.

## **3. Dissemination of migration research results**

### **3.1. Surveys on migrations and urbanization in West Africa**

Analysis of data related to migrations and urbanization surveys was the subject of several types of publications:

- National descriptive reports
- Regional synthesis reports
- bulletins and booklets
- Scientific and extension books and articles.

In addition, several national and sub-regional meetings were organized to review the obtained results:

- National workshops to disseminate and validate results ;
- One technicians meeting on population and development issues focused on migrations ;
- A regional ministerial conference that produced a declaration urging to better address migrations and urbanization issues.

Publications and documents from these regional meetings and workshops have been widely disseminated across the Sahel, some of them worldwide.

### **3.2. Dissemination of results related to migrations in the framework of KPO**

The overall data collected by KPO have not yet been the subject of thematic analysis due to a number of technical problems (see following item). More specifically, no study related to the evolution of migrations was conducted over the period of 2 years and half of collection. However, migrations were also reviewed through analysis of the baseline survey. Results will be soon published in the form of research report.

## **4. Difficulties encountered in migrations data collection**

### **4.1. Surveys on migrations and urbanization in West Africa**

Difficulties are of several types and vary according to countries. They include among others:

- No full or even partial update of the sampling base used, for budget reasons ;
- No update of mapping, for budget reasons ;
- No homogeneous procedures of household drawing ;
- Sample not representative of the total population, in countries that took part in the network surveys ;
- Volunteer over- estimation of migrants length of residence by some surveyors, in order to make some of them not eligible to the in-depth questionnaire designed for migrants. This bias that allows surveyors to conceal their real performance contributed also to under estimate the number of migrants with a length of residence of 5 years or less and are accordingly eligible to the migrants' in-depth questionnaire ;
- Reports not always complete or enough explicit on difficulties encountered during collection ;
- Problem of surveyors becoming weary because of lengthy questionnaires ;
- Usual lack of precision of information on income ;
- Well known difficulty for some respondents to determine their own age or household members ages.
- Etc.

### **4.2. The KPO (Kolondièba Population Observatory)**

Difficulties encountered by KPO in collecting migration data are essentially technical and financial. They relate to:

- Insufficient supervision of surveyors, especially in filling questions (coherence control) ;
- Insufficient check of accuracy of answers reported by surveyors ;
- No checking of the control of the questionnaire neither by supervisors nor by surveyors ;
- Absence of a permanent staff to supervise the accuracy of answers entered from those contained in questionnaires ;
- Absence of a permanent computer specialist charged with performing complex handling required for longitudinal analyses ;
- Insufficient number of researchers to conduct data analysis on a permanent basis ;
- Stopping data routine collection, due to lack of financial means and that Save The Children NGO refocused its activities on other areas in the same region.

## **5. Perspectives in strengthen migrations data collection**

### **5.1. Conduct of in-depth surveys and analyses on migrations in several African countries**

CERPOD still desires to get deeply involved in international migrations data collection and analysis. The lack of financial support is the basic blocking factor of resumption of researches on migrations. CERPOD now actually includes 8 demographers (statisticians, economists, sociologist and epidemiologist), one sociologist and one economist. While expecting the mobilization of financial funds, activities continue in form of consultations in the areas of migrations and AIDS. On the other hand, research projects are being worked out or updated in the framework of the institutional work plan for the years to come. In this connection, several studies were planned on topics permitting to conduct new studies and in-depth analyses on NESMUWA data. The areas targeted regard:

- Evolution of west African migration systems since 1960 : state of knowledge and regional perspectives ;
- Migration routes and spatial dynamics ;
- Migrations and gender ;
- Migrations, decentralization and local development ;
- Migrations and food security ;
- Migrations and AIDS.

### **5.2. Kolondièba Population Observatory**

A population observatory is a strong research tool for demographers and other researchers in social sciences. As a result, maintaining and restarting data collection are always relevant both scientifically and for the area targeted, in view of the persistence of health problems, poverty, important migratory movements, etc. These problems are social phenomena that an observatory can allow to well monitor with a view to improving populations living conditions through appropriate development programs. In addition, some important investments have been already made and do not deserve to be lost. Furthermore, KPO is an active member of the network of population observatories of developing countries (INDEPTH)<sup>3</sup> that promotes scientific and technical collaboration between demographic surveillance sites of developing countries.

With sufficient funding, KPO could be provided with high level permanent staff and extend collection operations to the total inhabitants of the 40 villages in the sample, or 30 000

---

<sup>3</sup> International Network of field sites with continuous Demographic Evaluation of Population and Health in Developing Countries

individuals instead of 10 000 now. Extending the sample will therefore allow to obtain more precise and more stable measures based on statistically appreciable numbers, especially with regard to births, deaths, migrations, etc.