



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

### DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: WHAT SOURCES, WHAT CONSEQUENCES ?

**Deadline:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008 (pre-proposal), 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008 (full proposal)

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#### Part 1: Research questions

The Agence Inter-Etablissements de Recherche pour le Développement (AIRD), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation are joining forces to launch a call for proposals for research projects targeting the economic impacts of population and migration issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. This program is intended to improve the state of knowledge about the determinants and consequences of the population dynamics and reproductive health situations that characterize the African continent. It therefore encourages the submission of projects questioning how these demographic trends and especially maternal and reproductive health (including fertility regulation policies), and the mobility of people impact economic development, including poverty and economic growth. The program strongly encourages the teams that are candidates for financing to practice interdisciplinarity by combining economists, demographers, social anthropologists and geographers. Research teams eligible to apply can be from Africa or from any European Union (EU) member state. The participation of African researchers or laboratories in each project is required. Research projects presented by teams from the EU nations will have to include among their objectives the reinforcement of research capacities within the countries studied, notably in the area of economic and statistical analysis. The quality of the proposals for valorizing the results of the research programs in the countries studied will also be part of the selection criteria.

The selection of the research projects will be entrusted to a Scientific Committee selected for its scholarly qualifications that will evaluate the fit of the proposed research topics with the terms of this call for proposals, as well as the quality and originality of the methodologies presented, and the likelihood that the research findings would inform policies to promote economic development.

From a methodological point of view, the call proposes, on the one hand, to encourage in the community of researchers an effort to valorize existing demographic and socioeconomic data and, on the other hand, to promote new interdisciplinary data collections targeted toward the programs cited below, to supplement the corpus of knowledge available. The proposals, aside from their contribution to basic research, can thus have a strong applied research dimension.

The partner institutions in this call suggested the following research topics, bearing in mind that a team can absolutely propose a project that responds to questions raised in several of the topics listed below.

### **1) Economic Growth, Poverty and Demography**

Economic growth and poverty have long been topics of in-depth study by development economists in both their macroeconomic aspects and at the household level. Demographers have deepened and sharpened the concepts and measurements related to the structure and dynamics of societies and households. Anthropological research has increased our understanding of individual and household behaviours remarkably since the 1950s. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa the causal links between poverty, economic growth, reproductive health and population dynamics remain poorly known.

The availability since the 1990s of intensive surveys of African households offers new perspectives on poverty research; however, these are not representative at the regional level, and are even less representative at the community level. These data from major surveys (and censuses, if available) can therefore be usefully supplemented by research at the household and community level that will allow for a sharp *contextualization* of poverty and for the linkage of these data with reproductive health and population issues. Major data sets on economic performance can also be supplemented by household and community level data to understand how widely shared the benefits of economic growth are and to better understand the drivers of economic growth and their relationship to demographic and related trends.

Extensive research has examined how economic development can be accelerated by a demographic dividend, or the unique economic window that occurs in areas where fertility falls relatively rapidly and for a short period the number of working aged people rises relative to the number of dependents (e.g., the very young, the elderly, and others who are not actively in the workforce). This window allows societies to invest heavily in a smaller number of children, allows workers to accumulate savings and other capital as their costs of raising children and caring for elders are lower than they would have been had fertility not declined.

The following, in particular, could be studied:

- How do demographic changes impact economic growth, including through workforce changes, female labour participation rates, productivity changes, and savings behavior?
- How can improvements in demographic data and a more sophisticated understanding of demographic dynamics improve the models used to predict economic growth patterns?
- Under what social and demographic conditions do the poor benefit most or least from economic growth?
- How does the demographic divide (high fertility among poorer households, lower fertility among richer households) impact economic improvements among both groups?
- Has any sub-Saharan country taken advantage of a demographic dividend so far? If yes, what lessons could be drawn from this or these experiences? Under what conditions can countries in sub-Saharan Africa expect to benefit from a demographic dividend?

We know that on the micro level there is an almost universal relationship in developing countries according to which fertility varies directly with poverty. However, correlation is not the same as causality and the question of the real explanatory scope of the correlation between fertility and poverty can be studied. In other words, is fertility truly a determinant of poverty

or do certain intermediary variables play a preeminent role?

Questions of gender may be addressed. In effect, the unfavorable economic and social status of women and the weakness of their decision-making power often place them in situations of great vulnerability with regard to pregnancies, male or family violence (including female genital mutilation), STDs and HIV/AIDS. The precariousness of their situation often affects their status in the home (imposition of other wives or mistresses, unprotected risky sexual relations). If the husband is infected with HIV/AIDS, the situation is even more serious. Understanding the role of gender issues as they are related to reproductive health in achieving economic outcomes, including female labor supply, household poverty status, and asset accumulation, are all important questions that may be addressed under proposed research projects.

A major issue is the link between women's "empowerment" and access to contraception, and, moreover, the way to increase access to contraception in a context where women suffer from a lack of empowerment.

On this topic, as for the following ones, the questions suggested here are not mandatory or exclusive of other problems: they translate the leads identified as promising by the partner institutions in this call.

## **2) Maternal and Reproductive Health, Fertility and Poverty**

Does a decrease in fertility (for instance, resulting from an increase in contraceptive practice) truly translate into a decrease in poverty? At the household level, what can we learn about the reality of this inverse correlation? How can it be explained when it is stated? How does it relate to all other factors in the persistence of poverty? Under what conditions do the causal conditions hold? What about at the macroeconomic level? Do the data available allow this question to be answered? Moreover, can one go beyond the simple momentary confirmation of the differences in poverty according to the level of fertility and verify whether, in the medium or the long term, the timing or levels of fertility impact poverty or other economic outcomes, and to what extent?

We will expect projects that have undergone critical reflection based on the empirical data available and that are likely to lead to a significant contribution to the knowledge of the economic impacts of population dynamics, fertility, and reproductive health. This goes beyond the simple correlation of the data on fertility and reproductive health with the data on poverty.

If certain aspects of reproductive health (adolescent pregnancies, contraceptive failures) are rather well documented, this call for proposals prefers on-site research permitting detailed comprehension of the relations between poverty and reproductive health, or population dynamics and economic growth, studies that are relatively rare in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the French-speaking areas.

The problem of access to reproductive health can also be dealt with. The difficulties of access to information and services in the area of reproductive health depend on numerous cultural, economic, social and institutional factors. The proposals could relate to analyzing these difficulties with access according to the component principles of reproductive health

(maternal health, infant health, family planning, STDs and violence against women), and show how the lack of access to information and services impacts economic well-being at the individual, household, or more aggregated levels. Moreover, the reason why access to information and services is limited is a very crucial issue, especially in an operational perspective.

This type of approach assumes, from a methodological point of view, that a qualitative/sociological approach, conducting a certain number of interviews or focus groups leading to the creation of significant samples of health service users, can be crossed with a quantitative/economic approach, to quantify these difficulties with access and to associate costs with them, not only for individuals but also for public authorities.

Beyond material obstacles, the projects could study scientifically the economic impact of any obstacles posed by social, cultural or religious practices to the use of reproductive health services, when they are available. With regard to social practices, one could study the obstacles posed by the practices of corruption, exclusion, domination and violence by health personnel against patients, particularly women, and how this impacts their economic well-being. Regarding cultural and religious practices, this call is non-restrictive and will study any proposal regardless of the cultural fields or religions involved. Preference will be given to multinational approaches, to take into consideration the important diversity in practices observed.

### **3) The Effectiveness of Maternal and Reproductive Health Policies and Programs**

In connection with the previous topic, the projects could focus on analyzing the causes of failure or success of past maternal and reproductive health programs, regardless of their initial objectives. How can the success of a program be measured? What parameters can explain the use or non-use of the services offered? What factors can explain the possible suboptimal use of the services or products offered? Conversely, what are the characteristics of programs that met the objectives set by their promoters?

The scientific evaluations of impact on the sample, when the context permits, will be a preferred methodology, especially if they permit measurement of the cost/effectiveness ratio of a reproductive health/maternal health program or policy.

### **4) Family Safety and Demography: The Insurance Function of Fertility**

Aside from situations of chronic poverty that are either medium or long term, another dimension should be considered – that of how reproductive health, fertility, and migratory behavior impact or respond to temporary exogenous crises and shocks (e.g. climatic risks, food crises, health crises or even political crises).

The projects could try to quantitatively measure the insurance role households attribute to their offspring, identifying the type of risks thus covered and the level of risk accepted by households in different geographic contexts. Various types of risks could be studied: risk of food crisis, health or handicap, professional inactivity, property damage, old age, etc.

The economic impacts of demographic or social influences on risk coverage projects looked

at above can be evaluated, whether they were conducted by aid agencies or NGOs. From this viewpoint, the quantitative approach (econometric measurement of impact on samples composed randomly) could be supplemented by socio-anthropological studies.

## **5) Movements and Localizations of Populations, Health and Demography:**

The demographic and economic responses to poverty or other determinants can also be simultaneous, as illustrated by the migration of people. The consequences of migrations for fertility and the fight against poverty could be studied in their intra-national dimension (for instance, what are the consequences of the phenomenon of urbanization on fertility and vice versa) as well as their regional or international aspects. From this point of view, internal migrations can be considered a step or a supplemental form of international emigration.

### **a) Migrations and Poverty**

Analysis of the contribution to the fight against poverty from returns and transfers of migrants to the development of their region or country of origin must be supplemented by studies of concrete cases in the countries of departure in Sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on the impact of international migrations by trying, for example, to answer the following questions: Do the monetary transfers have a medium-term impact on poverty? What are the consequences of national, regional or international migrations on family systems, systems of values or systems of cultural and religious practices in the regions of origin? Do these consequences create new dynamics favorable to development?

The proposals will analyze the diversity and intensity of transfers of all kinds (monetary, cultural practices, technologies) according to the various characteristics of the migrant (age, length of stay outside the community, migratory intent (permanent return or migratory circulation)). What is the impact on the lifestyle and size of the family? On the levels of activity of the family? Who participates in decisions regarding the allocation of the funds?

The proposals will attempt to analyze the diversity of migratory intents in the countries of departure in Sub-Saharan Africa. As for the methods of return, the proposals will study the profiles of individuals: who comes back and why? They will evaluate the respective roles of factors linked to life cycle (return to marry), the cultural dimension (education and transmission of culture to children), and local politics (conflicts between migrants and the traditional elites).

### **b) Migrations and Health**

While migration appears to be more of an *adaptive* response to poverty, we cannot exclude interactions between :

- health and migration: do health problems explain any kind of migration to countries where the likelihood to be cured is higher or the quality of treatment better?
- reproductive health problems (particularly AIDS), migration and poverty in a *descending spiral*. For example, the migration of men in search of income can translate into a risk of infection with AIDS (case of mining workers or truckers). The resultant morbidity and even mortality of the migrant translates finally into the loss of economic benefits from emigration and can lead to an aggravation of household poverty. This situation of disequilibrium, seen this time from the level of the communities of origin, can again encourage adults' departure in

order to get out of poverty.

One specific problem is that of the migrants' non compliance with treatments when they return to the countries after having been treated in Europe. Are the "lost to follow-up" patients registered in the active files in Sub-Saharan Africa explained by socio-anthropological factors (stigmatization of AIDS patients) or by a different quality of care offered?

The interactions between spatial location and fertility could be studied. What is the impact of urbanization on fertility? Do the conditions of national or international migration and settling (access to housing, jobs, basic public services) determine behavior in terms of reproductive health/maternal health? Can this be measured? What link can we establish, in rural settings, between the real estate question and fertility (*Land-fertility hypothesis, Reverse causation hypothesis, etc.*)?

## **Part 2 - Guidelines**

### **1) Knowledge sharing and use of results**

It is critical that results are in line with the programme's objectives of this call for proposals and will be made available to the relevant public. Collaboration and exchange with international stakeholders active in this field are essential.

- a. To ensure results are utilized and achieve impact on society, relevant stakeholders from outside the scientific community must be engaged in all phases of the research programme. Applicants should therefore indicate who the likely end-users or beneficiaries are, how and when will they be engaged (preferably from the inception phase onwards) and what kind of (innovative) activities will be undertaken during and after the project to further the sharing and use of results.
- b. The programme aims to generate knowledge and develop the working methods of social sciences researchers in a free-access and data-sharing perspective.
- c. Grant recipients will be expected to cooperate in additional outreach activities organised by the funding agencies and will also be expected to represent their project in third-party events.

### **2) Critical mass and capacity-building**

The programme calls for high-quality scientific research, the active participation of African partners in research activities and knowledge transfer to relevant stakeholders and policymakers to ensure research results benefit the countries concerned.

Research institutions must promote North-South and South-South collaboration, and must involve junior researchers and Ph.D. students in view of building research capacities over the long term.

### **3) Call for proposals**

The programme has a budget of 2.400.000 € with 1.700.000 € earmarked for financing selected research projects. It is expected to fund six to eight projects. In addition, the programme will earmark funds for workshops and conferences. Additional support will be provided for the capacity building of two Ph.D. students (via scholarships) and two "collaborative chairs".

#### 4) Conditions to apply

- a) Scientific scope
  - i. Research should address issues that contribute to answering the programme's key questions and fit the described international context (geographical focus).
  - ii. Projects focusing on Sub-Saharan francophone countries and using comparative approaches involving several countries will receive priority.
- b) Nationality and partnerships
  - i. Applications will only be accepted from research partners from European and African countries. Projects with lead researchers from Sub-Saharan countries are particularly encouraged.
  - ii. Research teams should be interdisciplinary, involving an appropriate mix of scientific disciplines and relevant stakeholders from outside the scientific community (NGOs, policymakers) to address the key questions. Research teams should include an economist.
  - iii. Research teams should actively involve Sub-Saharan research institutions throughout the project.
  - iv. Research should include training activities aimed at enhancing Sub-Saharan countries' research capacities.
- c) Other conditions
  - i. Only applicants having submitted the pre-proposal may submit a full proposal.
  - ii. The full proposal should include a communication plan describing the planned activities to enhance knowledge sharing and to ensure the use of results by relevant stakeholders.
  - iii. The full proposal should include a management plan as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan.

#### 5) Application procedures

The application procedure is divided into three stages: a first stage in which pre-proposals are submitted, a second stage in which selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal and a potential stage of rewriting before project are submitted again.

##### *Timeline*

Publication of the call for applications:	22 December 2008
Deadline for submission of pre-proposals:	02 March 2009
Deadline for submission of full proposals:	14 April 2009
Selection committee meeting:	29 April 2009
Project rewriting workshop:	13 -15 May 2009
Final decisions for awards:	26 June 2009

## **6) Information for applications**

### **a) Who can apply?**

Any researcher affiliated with a research institution from the European Union or Africa (including North African countries) can apply. Should the application be a joint initiative of several research institutions (hereafter referred to as the "project consortium"), there must be one coordinating institution with a project leader.

The project leader must be a senior researcher with demonstrated leadership skills.

At least one researcher from a Sub-Saharan country, affiliated with a Sub-Saharan institution, must be included in the project consortium, as consortium leader or as consortium member.

### **b) What can be applied for?**

Interdisciplinary research projects with a maximum duration of 3 years, implemented by research institutions from African and European Union countries.

Involvement of other partners can be funded on a case-by-case basis. It is possible to reserve part of the budget for (short-term) involvement of students or additional experts who are not from eligible institutions (such as NGOs). Budget guidelines are below.

The additional support for the 2 Ph.D scholarships and for the 2 collaborative chairs will be awarded via a specific call for applications.

## **7) Guidelines for submission and application forms**

### **a) General remarks**

- i. Applications should use the application form available. Fully completed forms should be submitted as described below.
- ii. The form can be completed in English or French.
- iii. The full proposal is composed by 3 forms and commitment letters.

### **b) Pre-proposal**

The pre-proposal should be submitted electronically by 02 March 2009. The pre-proposal will be a summary (maximum 4-5 pages) of a potential full proposal with the following information: context, objectives, scientific questions, expected results and outcomes, methodology, research team, training program, knowledge transfer activities and communication activities.

c) Full proposal

- i. The full proposal should be submitted by selected applicants in duplicate: 1) an electronic version and 2) a signed hard copy, sent by post. The electronic version must be submitted by 14 April 2009 at the following email address: [demtrend@ird.fr](mailto:demtrend@ird.fr) . Applications will only be taken into account if the signed hard copy is received by 23 June 2009 to the following address:  
IRD – AIRD – DEMTREN  
44 bd de Dunkerque  
CS 90009  
13572 Marseille cedex 02

Applications cannot be modified or supplemented after the deadline.

- ii. The full proposal consists of four parts: a project document, a partnership presentation (if a joint initiative), a budget and commitment letter for each institution concerned.
- iii. The application form should not be protected in order to enable processing (\*.xls or \*.doc).

d) Commitment letter

An appropriate cover letter must be included, clearly expressing the agreement of each institution to be part of the project.

e) Budget Guidelines

The applicant should fill in the budget factsheet document according to the following rules:

- i. Project budgets can range from 100.000 € to 400.000 € for a maximum of three-year research projects.
- ii. The maximum cost for training activities should represent no more than 15% of the total budget.
- iii. The maximum cost for evaluation should represent no more than 10% of the total budget.
- iv. Budget form should present a budget displayed according to partners involved

Please note that in the event the total budget required for proposed research activities exceeds the maximum grant, the applicant should find additional funding sources, such as the host institutions(s), or from adjoining research programmes. The project may be the continuation of an already awarded project. In this case, the project must clearly indicate funding already received and the specific contribution of the project to the overall programme.

Reimbursable costs include:

- Personnel cost of Master, Ph.D. and post-doc researchers: salaries, living allowance (according to local salaries; level based on justification)
- Research costs: travelling expenses and transportation, consumables, research assistance, involvement of external scientific experts, experts from NGOs or students).
- Information technology

Non-reimbursable costs include:

- Office space, car purchase, basic facilities, and depreciation costs
- Consumables or administrative and technical assistance which the host institution may be expected to provide routinely;
- Costs of accommodation, with the exception of expenses incurred during short trips of supervisors or researchers directly related to the research (< 3 months).

## **8) Criteria and assessment**

### a) General remarks

Applications will be evaluated using the explicit criteria described below. To be selected, proposals should combine scientific excellence, relevance concerning the key questions of this programme, and the added value of international collaboration, network and capacity building and potential applicability to development policy issues at stake.

The full proposal will be subject to an independent, international peer review.

A Steering Committee will make awards on the basis of the recommendation of a Scientific Committee. These committees may decide to offer an applicant the opportunity to revise and resubmit a promising proposal after a project rewriting workshop to be held 13-15 May 2009.

### b) Preliminary applications

The pre-proposal will be assessed on the following criteria:

- i. Scientific quality
  1. Originality and innovative character of the research question(s) and/or method(s)
  2. Appropriateness of the approach
- ii. Relevance to the programme's key questions; relevance of proposed training and communication activities and stakeholder involvement.
- iii. Quality of collaboration
  1. Added-value of the partnership (international composition, disciplinary complementarities, relevant stakeholders) and its potential to strengthen the scientific capacity of the developing country(ies) in question.

2. Stakeholder involvement, including the extent to which the research ties into larger (international) initiatives, platforms and networks.

**c) Full proposal**

The following evaluation criteria will apply:

- i. Scientific quality
  1. Originality of research questions and/or of approach and methodology; scientific relevance/impact
  2. Adequacy and effectiveness of the approach and methodology (compatibility of the research questions, integration of sub-projects and integration of inter-disciplinary perspectives)
  3. Geographic scope of the project
  4. Feasibility, quality of the research team(s) and facilities; managing capacity of the coordinating institution
- ii. Relevance of capacity building and training activities
  1. Extent to which institutional capacities are enhanced
  2. Extent to which individual capacities are enhanced
  3. The roles played by researchers in Sub-Saharan countries
  4. Involvement of trainees in research activities
- iii. Relevance to development issues
  1. Extent to which the research questions fit the programme's aims and the research results can be expected to contribute to issues prioritised in this programme
  2. Potential of applying research results to policy and practice, especially via stakeholder involvement
  3. Quality of the communication plan
- iv. Quality of collaboration
  1. Management capabilities of the project leader and the main research laboratories
  2. Extent to which the partnerships add value (international composition, disciplinary complementarities, quality of existing partnership, long-term perspectives for new partnerships, quality of the collaborative arrangement, extent and quality of stakeholder involvement)
  3. Involvement of Sub-Saharan researchers and students
  4. Potential for strengthening of the scientific capacity in Sub-Saharan countries
  5. Potential for strengthening of public policy in Sub-Saharan countries
  6. Extent to which research is linked/embedded into larger (international) initiatives, platforms and networks both in terms of scientific cooperation and development cooperation.

- v. Knowledge sharing
  - 1. Conditions for accessing data
  - 2. Perspectives for joint publications
  
- vi. Project implementation
  - 1. Suitability of human resources
  - 2. Feasibility of activities
  - 3. Adequacy of the budget
  - 4. Availability of data
  - 5. Management capacity of the coordinating institution

**9) Role of the coordinating institution and lead researcher**

- a. The coordinating institution is the institution hosting the lead researcher
- b. The lead researcher of the coordinating institution is the main contact person for the AIRD
- c. The coordinating institution will be responsible for all financial management: receiving funds and disbursing funds to other partners, if necessary. The institution concerned will have to open a specific bank account in order to receive funds granted for this project.
- d. The lead researcher will have the reporting responsibilities for all members