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THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN WESTERN AFRICA

(Note by the secretariat)

M66-985

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INTRODUCTION

1. This paper deals with the present demographic structures of the population in the Western African countries followed by a study of the recent population trends and the prospects for the future.

2. The countries that make up the Western African sub-region and are under study in this paper are Nigeria, Ghana, Upper Volta, Mali, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Senegal, Niger, Dahomey, Sierra Leone, Togo, Liberia, Mauritania, Portuguese Guinea, Gambia, Cape Verde Island, and St. Helena. With a total land surface area of 6.1 million square kilometres which is 20.4 per cent of the total area of Africa, this sub-region is the second largest (next to the Northern sub-region) in Africa. According to 1964 mid-year estimates, Western Africa had a total population of 96.1 million (or 31.7 per cent of the total population of Africa) which makes it the most populous of the five sub-regions of Africa. The population of this sub-region is estimated to be increasing at the rate of 2.7 per cent per annum which is a rate higher than that of the whole region (2.5 per cent per annum). The rate of growth is one of the highest among the sub-regions of Africa.

3. Like the other sub-regions of Africa, demographic statistics are not adequate and reliable especially as far as data on Vital Statistics are concerned. However, each of the countries has up to date, taken at least two censuses or sample surveys to determine the total population and other demographic characteristics at different periods. Of the seventeen countries in the sub-region, at least twelve undertook either a census or a sample survey between 1959 and 1964.

I. DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION

(a) Total population

4. The total population of Western Africa is estimated at 96.1 million (Table 1) in 1964. There are, however, wide differences between the population of the different countries as shown in Table 1. Unlike

Eastern Africa where the largest country (Ethiopia) is also the most populous, in Western Africa, Nigeria which is the most populous (with 56.4 million or 58.7 per cent of the total population in the sub-region) is only the fourth largest in land area with 15 per cent of the total land area. After Nigeria, the only country with a population above 5 million is Ghana with 7.5 million persons in 1964 or 7.8 per cent of the total population in the sub-region. These two countries, with less than 20 per cent of the total land area, make up 66.5 per cent of the total population in the sub-region. After Ghana come Upper Volta (4.8 million) and Mali (4.5 million), which together with 24.2 per cent of total area of the sub-region make up only 9.6 per cent of the total population. After these some 6 countries with population between 2 million and 3.7 million. The largest country in land area, Niger, is in this group. With more than 20 per cent of the total area of the sub-region Niger has only 3.3 million population or 3.4 per cent of the total population of Western Africa. The remaining seven countries, including the small islands, have population between 5,000 and 1.6 million. Western Africa's population is therefore dominated by Nigeria, which with 15 per cent of the total area contributes nearly 60 per cent of the population in the sub-region, while the remaining sixteen countries with 85 per cent of the total area together contribute only 40 per cent of the total population.

(b) Density of population

5. The density of population in Western Africa, measured by the number of persons per square kilometre of land is estimated at 16, thus making this sub-region more densely populated than any of the other sub-regions of Africa. This compares with a density of 10 per square kilometre for the whole of Africa. There are, however, wide variations in the densities for the different countries of the sub-region. They range between 61 for Nigeria to 1 in Mauritania. Excluding the islands of Cape Verde and St. Helena, the countries that come after Nigeria are Ghana (32), Gambia (32), Sierra Leone (31) and Togo (28). The rest have densities between 20 (in Dahomey) and 3 (in Niger).

6. Since Western Africa, like the rest of Africa, is still mainly agricultural, other indicators to show the extent of pressure on land in this sub-region are the density per square kilometre of arable land, and density per square kilometre of arable land in the rural areas. These are given in Table 2. Unfortunately there are no data for all the countries of the sub-region. For the 14 countries which have data on area of arable land the density per square kilometre of arable land is 140. This can be taken as an approximation of the figure for the whole sub-region. Excluding the small islands, Portuguese Guinea has the highest density per square kilometre of arable land (1,750) followed by Nigeria (258), Gambia (162), Dahomey (153) and Ghana (142). The lowest figure is recorded in Niger (28). The figure for the whole of Africa in 1964 was 176, while the figure for Eastern Africa at the same time was 110. In the rural areas too there are data for only ten of the countries in the sub-region. The country with the highest density in the rural areas is Gambia with a density of 148 per square kilometre of arable land for the rural population, followed by Nigeria with 130, Dahomey 125 and Ghana 111. The rest of the countries all have something below 70 except Upper Volta which has 89. The density of rural population per square kilometre of arable land in the whole of Africa around 1964 was 110 and 125 for Western Africa. This means that, as compared with the rest of Africa, the pressure on arable land in Western Africa is greater, though the density can still be considered low.

(c) Age structure of the population

7. The sex and age distributions of a population usually give some indications of the manpower potential of the population and also provide a measure of its dependency load, consumption needs and the social requirements both for the present and the future. A knowledge of the structure of a population is, therefore, indispensable in the economic planning of a country.

8. Though the age data collected in the censuses and surveys in the countries of this sub-region, like data from the other parts of Africa, are known to be inaccurate, they, however, give at least a rough idea

of the situation in the sub-region. The age data (Table 3) show that like all high fertility areas the countries of the sub-region have young and growing populations. In general children under 15 make up about 45 per cent of the total population. Persons in the working age groups 15-59 usually form just about 50 per cent of the total population, while the aged (60 years and over) form about 4 per cent.

9. This type of age distribution is of course a great handicap to economic development in the sub-region. First since about half of the population is under 15 years, it means the countries of the sub-region have to invest large portions of their revenue on items like education which take a long time to yield dividends.

10. Secondly, the dependency load tends to be very heavy. The usual rough measure of the dependency load is the ratio of the number of persons aged under 15 years and those 60 and over, to the total number of persons aged 15-59 years. In Western Africa there are about 9 persons in the dependent ages for every ten persons in the working age groups. This in fact means that in this sub-region slightly more than 50 per cent of the total population have to support the whole population. For countries with the relevant data the highest dependency ratios are observed in St. Helena (116), Togo (114), Ghana (98), Mali (95.3) and Niger (94). The lowest is in Cape Verde Islands (69.8). In fact, apart from Cape Verde there is not even one country with a dependency load below 88. (Table 3).

(d) Sex-ratio

11. Table 4 shows the sex-ratio (number of males per 100 females) of the total population and where available for the urban, rural, indigenous as well as of the non-indigenous population of the various countries of the sub-region.

12. As indicated by the ratios the countries of the sub-region can be generally said to have low sex-ratios. For the total population, females outnumber males in all the countries except Gambia (104), Ghana (102.2)

and Ivory Coast (102.7). For countries with data for the indigenous African population only Ghana (102.1) and Upper Volta (100.8) have ratios above 100. Of course, Ghana is known to have a considerable number of immigrants and therefore, the sex-ratio is not unusual. Even for Ghana the sex-ratio of the Ghanaian origin population is as low as 97.2.

13. These low sex-ratios noted in almost all the Western African countries is in contrast to the observed high proportion of males in other under-developed countries of Asia and Latin America and would partly be explained by the migration of male labour from countries like Togo, Dahomey, Upper Volta and others and perhaps by the sex-ratio at birth in these countries. Unfortunately, however, none of the countries have accurate data on sex-ratio at birth and so this second possible reason will only remain a hypothesis until data become available in these countries either to confirm or refute it.

14. Data on sex-ratios for urban population are available for Togo, Ghana, and Senegal. Even here it is only in Ghana that the males outnumber the females as it is generally found in urban areas owing to the migration of males from the rural areas to the urban areas to find jobs.

15. For the non-African population there is a general tendency for the males to outnumber the females in all the countries which have data. The highest ratio is found in Mauritania (225) followed by Niger with 162 and Ghana with 146.

(e) Ethnic composition

16. As compared with the other sub-regions of Africa, Western Africa can be said to be predominantly populated by indigenous Africans. Apart from Cape Verde Island which had only 28 per cent African population in 1950 (see Table 5), no other country had anything more than 2 per cent of non-African population. These compare with those of say South Africa with about 32 per cent, Rhodesia with 6 per cent, Zambia and Kenya each with about 3 per cent non-African population in 1960. Apart

from the Gambia with 2 per cent of non-African population and Senegal with 1.9 per cent, none of the rest had anything more than 1.3 per cent.

(f) The urban population

17. A knowledge of the urban population of a country and its growth is of great importance to planners. For standardization it is usual to consider only towns and cities with 20,000 and more inhabitants, in studies of urbanization. Usually the relative share of the population in cities with 100,000 and more inhabitants among the total number of towns and cities with 20,000 and more inhabitants is used as a measure of the concentration of the urban population. Available data show that in Western Africa the urban population (towns and cities with population 20,000 and more) formed about 12.4 per cent of the total population around 1960. This compares with a figure of 13 per cent for the whole of Africa and about 5 per cent for Eastern Africa about the same time. The proportion of the urban population living in cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants in Western Africa is also estimated to be about 7.6 per cent of the total population, which compares with about 3 per cent for Eastern Africa around 1960 and 5 per cent for Africa around 1950. Thus, of the population of 85.6 million living in Western Africa in 1960 about 10.6 million lived in towns with population 20,000 and more while 6.5 million lived in cities with population 100,000 and more. This means that 61 per cent of the urban population of Western Africa were concentrated in cities with population 100,000 and more. The figures given above indicate that the rate of urbanization in Western Africa is quite high and that the concentration of the population in a few urban cities is appreciably high.

18. As shown in Table 6 the country with the highest proportion of its population in urban areas (towns with population 20,000 and more) is Senegal (22.6 per cent), followed by Nigeria (14.0 per cent), Ghana (12.3 per cent), Gambia (8.9 per cent), Dahomey (8.3 per cent) and

Liberia (7.9 per cent). The countries with the lowest of persons in urban areas are Mali (4.6 per cent), Upper Volta (3.1 per cent) and Niger (1.3 per cent).

19. The population of capital cities and cities with population 100,000 and more is shown in Table 7. As usual Nigeria has the biggest share followed by Ghana. Altogether there were 31 cities with population 100,000 and more in Western Africa around 1960, twenty-three out of these are located in Nigeria, three in Ghana while Mali, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Guinea had one each.

20. This as well as the density of population in the various countries indicates that the population of the sub-region is highly concentrated in a few countries. For while the eleven cities with population 100,000 and more in Eastern Africa are located in seven countries the 31 such cities in Western Africa are located in only seven countries, with over 75 per cent of them in only one country, Nigeria. As shown in Table 7 Lagos (Nigeria) with 665,000 in 1963 has the largest city population, followed by Ibadan (627,000 in 1963) also in Nigeria then Dakar (Senegal) with 374,000 in 1960, Accra (Ghana) with 338,000 in 1960 and Ogbomoso (Nigeria) with 320,000 in 1963. All the other cities had populations of less than 200,000 except Kano, Oshogbo and Ilorin in all Nigeria with populations 295,000, 210,000 and 209,000 respectively.

(g) International migration

21. One major problem in Western Africa which should be of great concern to the countries is the non-availability of statistics on international migration which usually takes the form of overland crossings from one country to another. Movement across land frontiers in West Africa is a phenomenon which has been known to be going on in the sub-region for a long time. The Wangara's for instance in Mali are known to have started migrating to Kano (Nigeria) and the present Ghana, as far back as the 16th Century and to have extended their power over nearly all West Africa.^{1/} Even during the slave trade, Wangara and Hansa traders^{1/}

^{1/} Jean Rouch - 'Notes on Migrations into the Gold Coast'.

are known to have followed the strictly controlled slave routes and established important markets in Kumasi and Salaga in the then Gold Coast (Ghana).

22. In modern times it has been known that migrants from the North, West and Eastern borders of Ghana come into Ghana either to work on cocoa farms or as manual labourers in the mines or with constructional organizations and as traders. (Table 8 shows estimates of migrants from the former French West Africa in certain occupations given by Jean Rouch in his Survey on Migrations in the Gold Coast (1954).

23. It is, however, unfortunate that very little is being done by the governments in the sub-region to collect statistics which could give estimates of the volume of migration in the region. Yet it is an important problem which has to be solved, for without migration statistics, many of the countries will find it difficult to have accurate estimates of their population. For example, Ghana's 1960 census indicates that about 12 per cent of Ghana's population was of foreign origin. These migrants originate mainly from Togo, Upper Volta, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Niger. By all standards the rate of immigration into Ghana can be considered to be quite substantial. Yet the actual volume and annual rate is still not known and is very difficult to know.

24. Here, therefore, is one field which calls for the co-operation of the countries of Western Africa, and in which co-operation will be beneficial to the sub-region as a whole and to the different countries. Unless a joint effort is made by the different countries migration statistics will always remain poor and worthless, for as already mentioned a greater part of the movement is by land routes across the frontiers. The routes are usually so many that no single country can effectively cover all the routes along its frontiers. Co-operation between the countries in this field will, apart from yielding useful statistics, help to reduce the possible anti-social activities across the land frontiers in the sub-region.

II. MAJOR POPULATION TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

(a) Rate of population growth

25. Table 9 shows the rates of population growth for the different countries of the sub-region. As the figures indicate the annual rates of population growth for the last two censuses or surveys recorded in many of the countries can be seen to be unrealistic. For example with the amount of emmigration known to take place in Upper Volta, Togo and Dahomey the rates of growth recorded in these countries can be regarded as too high. So are the rates recorded in Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana even though Ghana and Senegal are countries which receive immigrants from neighbouring countries. The main cause of these high rates of population growth recorded in these countries is the varying degrees of accuracy and coverage of the two censuses or surveys considered in the calculation of the rates of growth.

26. Yet even with all these errors, rates of population growth in the Western African countries are generally high as shown in Table 9 which gives, the latest estimates of natural increase in the different countries of the sub-region. These estimates range between the lowest 1.8 per cent per annum for Gambia and Upper Volta and 3.1 per cent recorded in Mali. In fact, out of eleven countries with data only two have rates below 2 per cent per annum while eight have rates above 2 per cent. The other reasons for the high rates recorded in the last two census or surveys in the different countries of the sub-region are these high rates of natural increase (mainly the result of high fertility) and various rates of net immigration in some of the countries.

27. The rates of growth of the urban population in the different countries are shown in Table 10. The highest rate is recorded in Dahomey^{1/} (24 per cent) followed by Mali (23.0 per cent), Liberia (18.3 per cent), Nigeria (16.5 per cent) and Upper Volta (15.5 per cent). Togo 13 per cent,

^{1/} This high rate of growth is a joint product of the growth of original towns (two in number) for the base year (1956) and the increase in the number of towns to three at the end of the period considered (1961).

Niger and Upper Volta 12 per cent each and Ghana 11.5 per cent. These figures indicate high rate of growth of the urban population in all the countries. The lowest is 3 per cent recorded in Gambia, but even that is three times the rate of growth of the total population.

28. Similarly the rates of growth of cities with population 100,000 and more are high. The highest 15 per cent is recorded in Senegal followed by 14 per cent in Nigeria and 9 per cent in Ghana.

(b) Levels of fertility and mortality

29. Both measures of fertility and mortality have been shown for the different countries in Tables 11. Like the countries of the other sub-regions the data or rates shown have all, except for Cape Verde, been derived from Sample Surveys or by analytical methods since all these countries have not got any reliable compulsory and complete vital registration systems.

30. Estimates for the countries of Africa show that the highest fertility rates are recorded in Western Africa. Of the fourteen countries shown, only three have crude birth rates lower than 47 per thousand persons: these are Gambia with the lowest (39/1000) Cape Verde (42/1000) and Senegal (43/1000). Of the remaining eleven, as many as eight have rates above 52/1000, Guinea and Mali recording the highest rates of 62/1000 and 61/1000 respectively. The general fertility rate (number of births in one year to 1000 females in the child-bearing ages 15-49 years) is also generally high for the ten countries for which data are available. At least eight of the countries have rates above 200. The other fertility rate considered is gross reproduction rate, which shows the number of daughters that would be born to a generation of women having, at each age in the potential child-bearing period of their lives, the age-specific female birth rates observed for a given population at a given time, on the assumption that none of the women die before reaching the limit of her potential fertile years. This rate too is generally high for the Western African countries. Of the twelve countries

in the sub-region with data, eight have rates between 3 and 3.5. Even after allowing for a possible exaggeration in some of the rates the fertility rates in Western Africa are higher than rates in all the other sub-regions.

31. Like all areas with very high fertility rates in Africa, Western African countries have very high mortality. Apart from Cape Verde which has a crude death rate of 12/1000 population and Senegal with 17 the rates for the other countries range between 21 in Gambia and 40 in Guinea. Excluding Cape Verde and Senegal, infant mortality rates are from 111 per 1000 live births in Dahomey to 200 in Niger. The life expectancy at birth represents the average years of life to which a group of new born infants could look forward if they were subject to risks of death at each age, according to the mortality rates observed at each level of age in the country during the period to which the measure refers; it varies from the lowest 26 years in Mali to 43 years in Gambia. Lack of accurate data makes it difficult to estimate accurately the future trend of mortality in the sub-region, yet with the effort being made by the different countries to improve medical facilities as well as the economic and social conditions of their peoples there is the likelihood that the level of mortality will decline in the sub-region. The extent of the decline in the countries will, however, depend on the effort of each country.

32. The rates of natural increase which are obtained from the difference between the birth and death rates are given in Table 9. These rates range from the lowest 1.8 per cent per annum in Upper Volta and Gambia to 3.1 per cent in Mali.

(c) Polygamy, size of household and fertility

33. In Africa polygamy, size of household and fertility seem to be closely related. Available data from Guinea in Western Africa and Congo (Kinshasa) in Central Africa seem to indicate that monogamous marriages tend to be more fertile than polygamous marriages. Table 12 shows the number of wives per each husband aged 60-64 years for eight

countries and in the case of Ghana the average number of wives per husband (irrespective of age). From the table it can be inferred that polygamy is an accepted practice in Western Africa.

34. Table 13 gives the average size of private households in nine countries in the sub-region. The private household is here defined as consisting of one person or a group of persons living and "eating together". As the table shows the size of household is generally high in the sub-region. A number of factors account for this: the rate of fertility and the size of the nuclear family, the extent of the extended family, polygamy, the degree of urbanization and the extent of subsistence agriculture.

35. With increased industrialization in the sub-region urbanization is also likely to increase. Urban life usually leads to smaller nuclear families and smaller households: a lowering of the fertility level may therefore be indicated. It is usually believed that one of the reasons for polygamy is the necessity of extra labour in subsistence agriculture. This implies therefore, that with increased industrialization and gradual reduction in subsistence agriculture polygamy will gradually give way to monogamy in Western Africa: as already mentioned this may have a positive effect on fertility. Of course, since in the countries of the sub-region generally there are more females than males, there is also the possibility that the increase in monogamous marriages as well as the delayed marriages associated with urbanization may raise the percentage of never-married females at any particular time, which in turn tends to reduce fertility. The net effect of all these and other forces will determine to some extent the future trend of fertility in the sub-region.

(d) Population prospects 1960-1980

36. Population projections have been made by the United Nations for the different regions and sub-regions of the world under different assumptions of future fertility and mortality. From the sub-regional

projections^{1/} estimates of the population of Western African countries for 1960, 1965 and 1980.

37. According to the "medium" estimates which assume moderate increase in the life expectancy at birth and a constant fertility up to 1980, the population of Africa is expected to rise from 271 million in 1960 to 444 million in 1980 while that of Western Africa rises from 85.6 million to 147.8 million in 1980 and 272.1 million in 2000. Thus Western Africa will increase its share of Africa's total population from 31.6 per cent in 1960 to 33.2 per cent in 1980 and 35.8 per cent in 2000. This means that the population of the sub-region will be growing at a faster rate than the total population of Africa. The rates are even likely to be higher than predicted if mortality happens to decline more sharply than estimated.

(e) Changes in the age structure

38. As already pointed out the age structure of a population is important to planners since it gives an indication of the supply of labour, children of school-going age, etc. Table 14 shows the distribution of the "medium" population estimates for Western Africa for 1960, 1965, 1975 and 1980 in the broad age groups - 0-14 (young), 15-44 and 45-59 (which together constitute the working age groups) and 60 years and over (older persons). With high and constant fertility and a declining mortality the proportion of the population in the young age group (0-14) is expected to rise slightly from 45.6 per cent in 1960 to 45.9 per cent in 1980. Similarly the proportion in the working age groups is expected to fall as the proportion in the younger group rises and to rise as the proportion in the youngest group falls. This means that up to 1980 the population of Western Africa is expected to remain still young. Beyond 1980 the situation will depend on the extent to which fertility will decline in the sub-region.

^{1/} United Nations, Provisional Report on World Population Prospects, as Assessed in 1963, ST/SOA/Ser.R/7, 1964.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

39. In the foregoing paragraphs an attempt has been made to present the demographic situation in the Western Africa sub-region. The available data presented indicate that the sub-region like most of Africa is still not densely populated. At the same time fertility is very high in the sub-region and so even with the present relatively high mortality levels rates of natural increase are also high. There is no indication that the fertility level would decline in the coming decade or two, while with the improvements in health facilities and the standard of living in general, mortality rates are likely to decline, perhaps very sharply in some countries. This will of course result in higher rates of population growth. The population is young and is likely to grow younger still at least for some time. With industrialization the rates of urbanization are likely to increase and perhaps rapidly in some areas of the sub-region.

40. To sum up, in contrast to the densely populated regions at a relatively advanced stage of development, West Africa like the rest of Africa generally is sparsely populated and still at an early stage of development: the demographic features that are highlighted in the sub-region are a high rate of growth of population with a prospect for further acceleration in the near future; a considerable volume of migration; possibility of an increase in the pace of urbanization; and the young age structure of the population.

41. All these factors have effects on, and some of them are in turn effected by, plans for economic and social development. Population trends have, therefore, to be the subject of a deliberate and comprehensive policy in the countries which are seeking to raise the standard of living of the people through economic and social development planning, and not merely an item to be taken into account in planning. Such recognition of the population factor in developmental planning should proceed with simultaneous study on different demographic aspects. These might include studies on implications of population trends on investment needs in

different sectors of the economy; levels and trends of overland migration; the relationships of fertility and mortality with levels of living, detribalization, urbanization, industrialization; and the cost and effectiveness of different kinds of population policies under the conditions of tribal organization, modern agriculture, and urban societies, taking into account the social barriers to effective population policies regarding migration, participation in economic activities, re-deployment and training of manpower, and family planning.

42. It might also be mentioned that the recent resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council enables the United Nations now to provide advisory services and training on action programmes in the field of population at the request of governments desiring assistance in this field.^{1/}

^{1/} United Nations Economic and Social Council, Resolution Adopted by the Economic and Social Council, 1084(XXXIX) Work Programmes and priorities in population fields (E/RES/1084 (XXXIX), 30 July 1965.

TABLE 1

Area and Population of Western African Countries, 1964

Country	Area		Mid-1964 Population estimates	
	(thousand km ²)	Percen- tage distribution	Number in thousands	Percentage distribu- tion
Mauritania	1,030	16.9	900	0.9
Mali	1,202	19.7	^x 4,485	4.7
Senegal	196	3.2	3,400	3.5
Cape Verde Islands	4.0	0.07	^x 220	0.2
Gambia	10	0.2	324	0.3
Portuguese Guinea	36	0.6	525	0.5
Guinea	246	4.0	3,420	3.6
Sierra Leone	72	1.2	[≡] 2,200	2.3
Liberia	111	1.8	1,041	1.1
Ivory Coast	322	5.3	3,750	3.9
Upper Volta	274	4.5	4,757	4.9
Ghana	239	3.9	[≡] 7,537	7.8
Togo	57	0.9	[≡] 1,603	1.7
Dahomey	113	1.9	^x 2,300 ^{a/}	2.4
Niger	1,267	20.8	3,250	3.4
Nigeria	924	15.1	56,400	58.7
St. Helena, including dependencies	0.4	0.006	5	0.005
Total Western Africa	6,103	100.0	96,110	100.0
Africa	30,216	100.0	302,832	100.0

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1964, Statistical Yearbook, 1964 and Statistical Papers.

[≡] Provisional.

^x United Nations estimate.

^{a/} African population only.

TABLE 2
Density of Population, 1964

Country	Persons per km ² of		Rural population ^{a/}
	Total area	Arable land	per km ² of arable land
Nigeria	61	258	130 ^{b/}
Cape Verde Islands	55	220	0
Ghana	32	142	111
Gambia	32	162	148
Sierra Leone	31	60	55
Togo	28	73	65
Dahomey	20	153	125
Senegal	17	62	47
Upper Volta	17	97	89
Portuguese Guinea	15	1,750	0
Guinea	14	...	...
St. Helena, including dependencies	13	250	...
Ivory Coast	12	...	...
Liberia	9	55	50
Mali	4	...	...
Niger	3	28	25
Mauritania	1	100	0
Total Western Africa	16	140 ^{c/}	125 ^{c/}
Africa	10	114 ^{d/}	100 ^{d/}

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1964, FAO Production Yearbook, 1964, Statistical Yearbook, 1964 and Statistical Papers.

a/ Population in towns with less than 20,000 inhabitants, according to the latest available estimates.

b/ For 1952-53.

c/ Estimate.

d/ 1960 estimate.

TABLE 3
Percentage distribution of population in age groups

Country	Year	Under 15 years	15-59 years	60 years and over	Dependency ratio ^{a/}
Togo	1961	47.9	46.8	5.3	113.7
Dahomey	1961	46.0 ^{b/}	48.4 ^{b/}	5.6 ^{b/}	...
Ghana	1960	44.5	50.6	4.9	97.6
Nigeria	1952-53	44.3	47.7 ^{a/}	8.0	...
Mali	1960-61	43.8	51.2	5.0	95.3
Niger	1959-60	43.8	51.6	4.6	93.8
St. Helena, including dependencies	1956	43.6	46.3	10.1	116.0
Ivory Coast	1957-58	43.6	52.9	3.5	89.0
Mauritania	1960-61	43.0	52.3	4.7	91.2
Senegal	1960-61	42.4	52.1	5.6	92.1
Guinea	1954-55	42.0	53.0	4.9	88.5
Upper Volta	1960-61	41.6	53.1	5.3	88.3
Gambia	17.IV.63	37.6	49.4 ^{d/}	13.0 ^{e/}	...
Cape Verde Island	1950	34.1	58.9	7.0	80.7
Total Western Africa	1960	45.6	50.9	3.5	96.5

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1963, 1964 and Economic Bulletin for Africa Vol.V. Part B. (pre-publication text) and Enquêtes Démographiques récentes réalisées en Afrique Noire d'expression Française et à Madagascar.

a/ Number of persons under age 15 and 60 years and over per 100 persons aged 15-59 years.

b/ Under 34 years, 35-74 years and 75 years and over.

c/ 15-45 years and 50 years and over respectively.

d/ For 15-44 years.

e/ For 45 years and over.

TABLE 4
Sex-ratio of population (number of males per 100 females)

Country	Sector	Year	Total	African (indigenous)	Non-African (non-indigenous)
Mauritania	total	1961-1962	-	-	255.2 ^{a/}
	urban	1961-1962	104.3	-	-
	rural	1961-1962	-	-	-
Mali	total	12.XII.1956	99.3 ^{b/}	-	-
	urban	12.XII.1956	-	-	-
	rural	12.XII.1956	-	-	-
Senegal	total	IV.1960-VIII.1961	97.1	96.8	113.3
	urban	IV.1960-VIII.1961	100.1	-	-
	rural	IV.1960-VIII.1961	96.2	-	-
Gambia	total	17.IV.1963	104.0	-	-
	urban	17.IV.1963	-	-	-
	rural	17.IV.1963	-	-	-
Guinea	total	1.VII.1959(E)	101.1	-	-
	total	15-31.V.1955	90.8	-	-
	urban	15-31.V.1955	-	96.9	-
	rural	15-31.V.1955	-	90.3	-
Liberia	total	2.IV.1962	98.2	-	-
	urban	2.IV.1962	-	-	-
	rural	2.IV.1962	-	-	-
Ivory Coast	total	1.VII.1961(E)	102.7	-	124.4 ^{a/}
	urban	1.VII.1961(E)	-	-	-
	rural	1.VII.1961(E)	-	-	-
Upper Volta	total	30.IX.1960-20.IV.1961	-	100.8	127.8 ^{a/}
	urban	30.IX.1960-20.IV.1961	-	-	-
	rural	30.IX.1960-20.IV.1961	-	-	-
Ghana	total	20.III.1960 ^{10/}	102.2	102.1 ^{c/}	146.0
	urban	20.III.1960 ^{10/}	106.2	-	-
	rural	20.III.1960 ^{10/}	101.1	-	-
Togo	total	XI.1958-XII.1960	91.0	-	-
	urban	XI.1958-XII.1960	91.3	-	-
	rural	XI.1958-XII.1960	92.0	-	-
Dahomey	total	12.XII.1956	-	96.1	121.4
	urban	12.XII.1956	-	-	-
	rural	12.XII.1956	-	-	-
	total	25.V-30.IX.1961	-	96.1	-

TABLE 4 (Cont'd)

Country	Sector	Year	Total	African (indigenous)	Non-African (non-indigenous)
Niger	total	1961(E)	98.7	-	161.9 *
	urban	1961(E)	-	-	-
	rural	1961(E)	-	-	-
	total	X.1959-III.1960	98.1	98.8 ^{d/}	-
Nigeria	total	VII.1952-VI.1953	95.7	-	-
	urban	VII.1952-VI.1953	-	-	-
	rural	VII.1952-VI.1953	-	-	-

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1960, 1963 and 1964.

a/ For 1956.

b/ For 1963.

c/ The sex ratio of persons of Ghana origin was 97.2 in 1960.

d/ For 1962.

TABLE 5
Percentage distribution of population in ethnic groups

Country	Year	Indigenous (Africans)	Europeans (whites)	Mixed (coloured)	Asians	Others
Ivory Coast	XI.1957-1958	100.0	..	..	..	..
Togo	1948	100.0	0.0	..	..	..
Niger	X.1959.III.1960	100.0	..	..	..	..
Nigeria	1953	99.9		0.1		
Upper Volta	1960-1961	99.8		0.2		
Portuguese Guinea	1950	98.7	0.4	0.9	0.0	..
Ghana	1960	99.6 ^{a/}	0.3	..	0.1	..
Senegal	1960-1961	98.1	1.2	0.2	0.5	0.0
Gambia	1951	98.0		2.0		
Cape Verde Islands	1950	28.4	2.0	69.6	0.0	0.0

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1963, Economic Bulletin for Africa Vol.V, January 1965 and National Publication.

a/ Persons of non Ghanaian origin, however, form about 12 per cent of the total population.

TABLE 6
Percentage of total population in urban areas
(towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants)

Country	Year	Percentage of total population in towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants <u>a/</u>	Population in cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants as percentage of:	
			(i) total population	(ii) population in towns of 20,000 and more inhabitants <u>a/</u>
Senegal	1960/61	22.5	12.6	55.9
Nigeria	1963	14.0	8.7	61.8
Ghana	1960	12.3	9.5	77.7
Gambia	1.VII.1964	8.9	...	...
Dahomey	1961	8.3	...	...
Liberia	1960	7.9	...	...
Sierra Leone	1962	7.1	5.9	82.8
Ivory Coast	1960	7.0	5.6	79.3
Guinea	IX.1960	6.6	5.7	86.6
Togo	1.I.1961	5.9	...	...
Mali	1962	4.7	2.3	70.5
Upper Volta	IV.1960	3.1	...	...
Niger	1963	1.3	...	...
Total Western Africa	1962	12.4 ^{b/}	7.6 ^{b/}	61.3 ^{b/}

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1962, 1963, 1964 and National Publications.

a/ Including cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants.

b/ Estimate.

TABLE 7

Population of capital cities and cities of 100,000 and moreinhabitants

Country and City	Date	Population	
		City proper	Urban agglomeration
Mauritania NOUACKCHOTT	1964(E)	12,500	...
Mali BAMAKO	1960	...	135,200
Senegal DAKAR	1.II.1961	...	374,700 ^{a/}
Cape Verde Islands PRAIA	15.XII.1950	9,980	...
Gambia BATHURST	1.VII.1964(E)	28,896	...
Portuguese Guinea BISSAU	15.VI.1950	...	18,309 ^{b/}
Guinea CONAKRY	VI.1960	175,000	175,000 ^{b/}
Sierra Leone FREETOWN	1.IV.1963	127,917	...
Liberia MONROVIA	2.IV.1962	80,992	...
Ivory Coast ABIDJAN	1960(E)	...	180,000
Upper Volta OUGADOUGOU	IV.1961	59,126	...
Ghana ACCRA	20.III.1960	337,828	388,396 ^{a/}
Kumasi	"	180,642	218,172 ^{a/}
Sekondi-Tekoradi	"	75,450 ^{c/}	123,313 ^{a/}
Togo LOME	1.I.1962(E)	80,000	90,000
Dahomey PORTONOVO	1.I.1961(E)	65,000	...
Cotonou	10.IV.1964	109,328	...
Niger NIAMEY	1962(E)	40,000	...

TABLE 7 (Cont'd)

Country & City	Date	Population	
		City proper	Urban agglomeration
Nigeria			
LAGOS	1963	665,246	...
Aba	"	131,003	...
Abeokuta	"	187,292	...
Ado	"	157,519	...
Benin	"	100,694	...
Ede	"	134,550	...
Enugu	"	138,457	...
Ibadan	"	627,379	...
Ife	"	130,050	...
Ikere	"	107,216	...
Ilesha	"	165,822	...
Ilorin	"	208,546	...
Iwo	"	158,583	...
Kaduna	"	149,910	...
Kano	"	295,432	...
Maiduguri	"	139,969	...
Mushin	"	189,755	...
Oebomosho	"	319,881	...
Onitsha	"	163,032	...
Oshogbo	"	210,384	...
Oyo	"	112,349	...
Pont Harcourt	"	179,563	...
Zaria	"	166,170	...

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964 and National Publications.

Note: The capital city of each country is shown in apital letters.
(E) indicates an estimate of population.

a/ De jure population.

b/ Comprises city proper, suburbs and Iles de Loos.

c/ Comprises Sekondi (pop.34513) and Takoradi (Pop.40937).

d/ For "city councils" includes some rural areas.

TABLE 8

Estimate of the number and percentage of migrants in the
main occupations in the Gold Coast (Ghana) 1954

Occupation		Total Ashanti and Colony	Total migrants from the North	Total migrants from French West Africa
Male wage-earners (excluding agriculture)	Number (percentage)	524,000 (100)	300,000 (60)	200,000 (40)
Agriculture-males (excluding Cocoa)	Number (percentage)	300,000	180,000 (60)	120,000 (40)
Traders (male and female)	Number (percentage)	400,000	110,000 (27)	65,000 (16)
Total population (male and female)	Number (percentage)	3,312,000	600,000 (18)	385,000 (12)

Source: Notes on Migration into the Gold Coast (Ghana)
(First report of the mission carried out in the Gold Coast from March to
December, 1954.) Jean Rouch.

TABLE 9
Rates of growth of population

Country	Recorded or official rate of growth of population		Estimated rate of natural increase of population	
	Period	Per cent per year	Period	Per cent per year
Senegal ^{a/b/}	1955-1960	6.0 ^{c/}	1960-1961	2.7
Nigeria	1953-1963	5.8 ^{c/}	1952-1953	...
Togo ^{a/}	1955-1962	5.0 ^{c/}	1961	2.6
Upper Volta	1955-1960	4.7 ^{c/}	1960-1961	1.8 ^{d/e/}
Dahomey ^{a/}	1956-1961	4.2 ^{c/}	1961	2.8 ^{f/}
Niger ^{a/}	1955-1962	3.6	1959-1960	2.5 ^{g/}
Ghana	1948-1960	3.2 ^{h/}	1960	2.3 - 2.8 ^{i/}
Mali ^{a/j/}	1955-1960	2.4	1960	3.1
Ivory Coast ^{a/}	1955-1961	2.3	1957-1958	2.0 ^{k/}
Gambia	1951-1964	1.1	1962-1963	1.8
Guinea ^{a/}	1958-1960	0.5	1954-1955	2.2 ^{l/}
Sierra Leone	1956-1963	0.5	-	-
Cape Verde Island	-	-	1962	3.0
Portuguese Guinea	-	-	1940-1945	...
Mauritania	1958-1964	2.2		...

Source: United Nations, Demographic Yearbook, 1962, 1963, 1964 and National Publications.

^{a/} Institut National de la Statistique et des études Economique, Enquêtes démographiques récentes réalisées en Afrique Noire d'expression française et à Madagascar: Tableau d'ensemble, avril, 1965.

^{b/} For Commune of Dakar comprising city proper, the suburban village and Gorée.

^{c/} There is an apparent lack of comparability between estimates available from which rate of growth was computed.

Footnote to Table 9 (continued)

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- d/ Adjusted estimated natural increase computed at the Princeton office for population research is 1.3 per cent per year; Ansley J. Coale "Estimates of Fertility and mortality in Tropical Africa", First African population, Ibadan, 1966.
- e/ Adjusted rate on analysis by recall period made at the Economic Commission for Africa, on basis of data supplied by INSEE; Paris was 1.8 per cent per year.
- f/ In the same paper as in d/ the estimated natural increase in 1960 was 1.6 per cent per year.
- g/ In the same paper as in d/ the estimated natural increase in 1960 was 2.9 per cent per year.
- h/ Unofficial estimate, on adjustment for under-enumeration in 1948, estimated at 10 per cent by the UNTA Expert observed rate is 4.1 per cent.
- i/ United Nations, Population and Vital Statistics Report (Data available as of January 1, 1966). (ST/STAT/SER.A/75).
- j/ African population only.
- k/ In the same paper as in d/ the estimated natural increase for 1957-58 was 2.3 per cent per year.
- l/ In the same paper as in d/ the estimated natural increase in 1960 was 1.6 per cent per year.

TABLE 10
Rates of growth of urban and total population
(annual compound rates in percentage)

Country	Period	Total Population	Annual rate of growth (per cent)	
			Towns with 20,000 and more inhabitants ^{a/}	Cities with 100,000 and more inhabitants
Mali ^{b/}	1955-1960	2.4	23.0	-
Senegal ^{c/}	1955-1960	6.0	10.8	15.1
Gambia	1951-1964	1.1	3.0	-
Guinea	1958-1960	0.5	8.4	-
Sierra Leone	1956-1963	0.5	10.4	6.3 ^{d/}
Liberia	1956-1960	-	18.3	-
Ivory Coast	1955-1961	2.3	12.2	6.9
Upper Volta ^{c/}	1955-1960	4.7	15.5 ^{e/}	-
Ghana	1948-1960	4.1 ^{f/}	11.5	9.1
Congo	1955-1962	5.0	13.1	-
Dahomey ^{c/}	1956-1961	4.2	24.4	-
Niger	1955-1962	3.6	12.1	-
Nigeria ^{c/}	1952/53-1963	5.8	16.5	13.8

Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1962, 1963, 1964 and National Publications.

^{a/} Including cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants.

^{b/} African population only.

^{c/} There is an apparent lack of comparability between estimates available from which rate of growth was computed.

^{d/} For 1959-63.

^{e/} For 1959-61.

^{f/} The unofficial estimate on adjustment of under enumeration in 1948 census, estimated at 10 per cent by UNTA expert is 3.2 per cent.

TABLE 11
Measures of fertility and mortality

Country	Fertility measures				Mortality measures				
	Year	Type of Data	Crude birth rate (per 1000 persons)	General Fertility rate (per 1000 women 15-49 years)	Gross Reproduction rate	Type of Data	Crude death rate (per 1000 persons)	Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	Expectation of life at birth (years)
Guinea ^{a/b/}	1954-55	B	62	223	3.5	B	40	216	1954-55
Mali ^{a/}	1960	B	61	240	3.8	B	30	123	1957
Nigeria ^{c/}	1952-53	D	53-57 ^{d/}	...	3.6-3.8 ^{d/}	...	...	...	...
Togo ^{a/}	1961	B	55	228	3.5	B	29	127	1961
Ivory Coast ^{a/e/}	1957-58	B	55 ^{e/}	220	3.2	B	35	138 ^{f/} g/	1956-58
Dahomey ^{a/h/}	1961	B	54	227	3.3	B	26	111	1961
Upper Volta ^{i/}	1960-61	B	53 ^{k/}	212 ^{k/}	2.9 ^{a/}	B	35 ^{k/}	182 ^{a/}	1960-61
Niger ^{a/l/}	1959-60	B	52	232	3.5	B	27	200	1959-60
Ghana	1960	B	47-52 ^{m/}	203-224 ^{n/}	3.0 ^{d/o/}	B	24 ^{m/}	156 ^{m/}	1960
Mauritania ^{m/s/}	1960-62	B	47	...	...	B	25	...	...
Portuguese Guinea	1940-45	C(2)	47 ^{d/}	...	2.4 ^{d/}	..	...	...	...
Senegal ^{a/}	1960-61	B	43 ^{f/}	174	2.6	B	17	93	1957
Cape Verde Island	1962	A	42 ^{g/}	147 ^{n/}	...	A	12	95 ^{t/}	...
Gambia	1962-63	D	39 ^{g/}	...	2.5 ^{i/}	D	21 ^{s/}	...	1962-63

TABLE 11 (continued)

TYPE OF CODES

- A. Complete registration.
- B. Sample Survey data.
- C.(2) "Reverse - Survival" estimates, data of low or uncertain reliability.
- D. Other estimates.

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- a/ Institut national de la Statistique et des études Economiques, Enquêtes démographiques récentes réalisées en Afrique noire d'expression française et à Madagascar: Tableau d'ensemble, avril, 1965.
 - b/ In the same paper as in j/ estimates for 1954-55 are: Birth rate 46‰, death rate 38‰ and infant mortality rate 246‰.
 - c/ Excluding data for the province of Sardauna (the former British Northern Cameroons).
 - d/ Population Bulletin of the United Nations, No.7-1963 (ST/SOA/SER.N/7).
 - e/ In the same paper as in j/, adjusted estimates for 1957-58 are: Birth rate 55‰, death rate 32‰, and infant mortality rate 195‰.
 - f/ Economic Bulletin for Africa, Vol.V. January, 1965: Chapter B.1, "Recent Demographic levels and Trends in Africa".
 - g/ For 1956.
 - h/ In the same paper as in j/, estimates for 1961 are: Birth rate 49‰, death rate 33‰, and infant mortality rate 221‰.
 - i/ Estimate made at the Economic Commission for Africa on double interpolation in a graph prepared from Table 21 of the United Nations. The future growth of World Population, 1958, (ST/SOA/SER.A/28) based on stable population model.
 - j/ Adjusted estimates at the Princeton office for population research, are 49‰ for births, 33‰ for deaths and 270‰ for infant mortality: Ansley J. Coale "Estimates of fertility and mortality in Tropical Africa", First African Population Conference, Ibadan, 1966.

Footnote to Table 11 (Continued)

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- k/ Adjusted rates on analysis by recall period made at the Economic Commission for Africa on basis of data supplied by INSEE, Paris; the unadjusted rates were 50‰ for births, 32‰ for deaths, 48‰ for natural increase, and 200‰ for GFR.
- l/ In the same paper as in j/ estimates for 1960 are: Birth rate 58‰, death 29‰ and infant mortality rate 211‰.
- m/ United Nations, Population and Vital Statistics Reports (data available as of 1 January 1966) (ST/STAT/SER.A/75).
- n/ Estimated by the Economic Commission for Africa.
- o/ Relating to 1950-55.
- p/ Corresponding to the official projected used for development plan.
- q/ Estimate for 27 urban centres, based on births during 12 months period preceding urban census.
- r/ In the same paper as for j/ estimate for 1960-61 is 46‰.
- s/ United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 1964.
- t/ For 1959.

TABLE 12

Number of wives per husband

	Guinea 1954-55	Ivory Coast 1957-58	Togo 1961	Upper Volta 1960-61	Dahomey 1961	Senegal 1960-61	Mali 1960-61	Niger 1959-60	Ghana 1960
Number of wives per husband	1.9 ^{a/}	1.7 ^{b/}	1.7 ^{c/}	1.7 ^{a/}	1.6 ^{b/}	1.5 ^{a/}	1.5 ^{a/}	1.4 ^{a/}	1.4 ^{d/}

Source: (1) Enquêtes démographiques récentes réalisées en Afrique Noire d'expression française et à Madagascar.

(b) Tribes in Ghana.

a/ For husbands aged 60-64 years.

b/ For husbands aged 60 years and over.

c/ For husbands aged 60-69 years.

d/ Average number of wives per husband.

TABLE 13

Size of household

	Portu- guese Guinea 1950	Togo 1961	Guinea 1954-55	Upper Volta 1960-61	Mali 1960-61	Dahomey 1961	Cape Verde Island 1950	Ghana 1960	Niger 1959-60
Number of persons per household	7.8	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.1	4.5	4.2	4.2 ^{a/}	4.1

Source: Enquêtes démographiques récentes réalisées en Afrique Noire d'expression française et à Madagascar, Economic Bulletin for Africa Vol.V. January 1965; and National Publications.

a/ From unpublished data.

TABLE 14
Medium Population Estimates (in thousands), 1960 - 1980

Country	Population estimates in thousands				
	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980
Nigeria	50,000	58,000	67,500	78,500	91,000
Ghana	6,777	7,740	8,975	10,400	12,130
Upper Volta	4,300	4,782	5,195	5,735	6,415
Mali	4,100	4,580	5,060	5,680	6,485
Ivory Coast	3,431	3,834	4,235	4,740	5,385
Senegal	3,110	3,475	3,765	4,145	4,630
Guinea	3,072	3,480	3,880	4,325	5,030
Niger	2,823	3,270	3,625	4,085	4,675
Sierra Leone	2,450	2,710	3,000	3,310	3,660
Dahomey	2,150	2,355	2,600	2,935	3,355
Togo	1,440	1,640	1,820	2,060	2,370
Liberia	980	1,050	1,110	1,170	1,240
Mauritania	694	740	765	820	890
Gambia	284	324	370	425	490
Total Western Africa	85,611	97,980	111,900	128,390	147,755

Source: Derived from United Nations, Provisional Report on World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1963, ST/SOA/SER.R/7, utilizing official estimates subsequently available.

TABLE 15
Medium Population Estimates for Western Africa by Age Groups

Age groups (years)	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980
	Estimated number (in millions)				
0 - 14	39.0	44.5	50.7	58.3	67.8
15 - 44	36.7	42.2	48.2	55.1	62.6
45 - 59	6.9	7.9	9.1	10.5	12.1
60 & Over	3.0	3.4	3.9	4.5	5.3
Total	85.6	98.0	111.9	128.4	147.8
	Percentage distribution				
0 - 14	45.6	45.4	45.3	45.4	45.9
15 - 44	47.8	43.0	43.1	42.9	42.4
45 - 59	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.1
60 & Over	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Estimated by the ECA Demographic Section.