

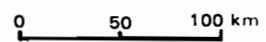
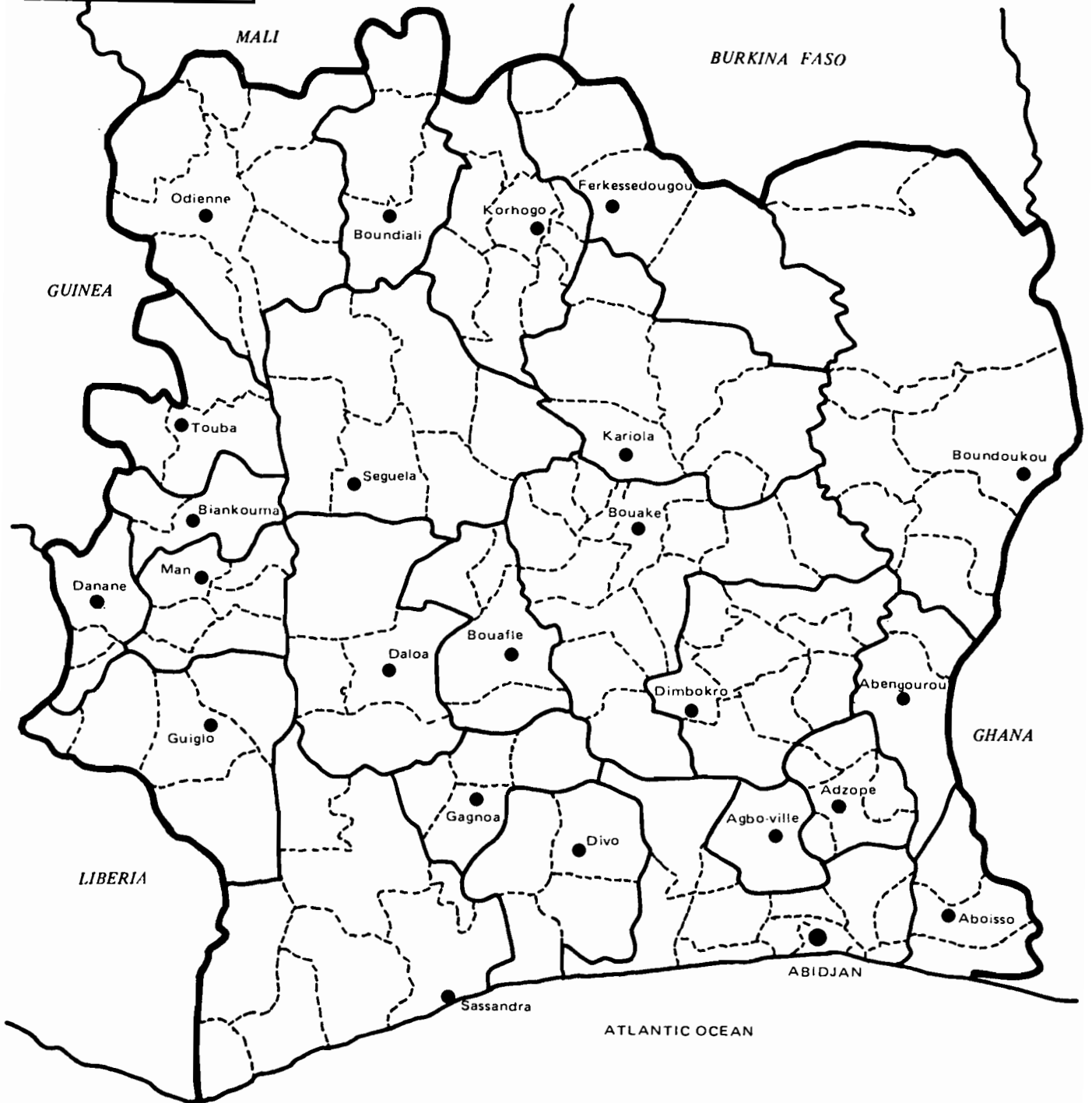
IVORY COAST

Francoise Binet

Claude Paulet

NOVEMBER 1979

IVORY COAST



- Department boundaries
- Administrative capital of department
- - - Sub-prefecture boundaries

I V O R Y C O A S T

I. SOURCES OF DATA

The first calculations of the population of the Ivory Coast go back to 1917, and up to 1956 they are based on the administrative censuses (1917, 1936, 1946, 1950, 1955, 1956). The censuses were in fact phased over time, the administrative authorities carrying out a census of a certain number of villages each year, and population figures therefore being periodically brought up to date. Apart from the fact that these censuses generally lack precision on fundamental individual characteristics (age, sex, marital status...) their degree of underestimation is considered significant: 15% for the period 1917-1936, 22% for the period 1946-1956 [5], 25% for 1956 [2].

From 1955 onwards, a serious effort was made in collection, manifesting itself in a series of censuses and surveys in urban and rural areas:

- censuses of Abidjan (1955), Agboville (1956), Man, Dales, Abengourou, and Dimbokro (1957), Bouaké (1958);
- surveys of Bongouanou (1955-56), the first agricultural sector (circles of Aboisso, Agboville, Grand Bassam, Lagunes except Abidjan) (1957-58), the eighth agricultural sector (circles of Korhogo and Odienné) (1958), the rest of the Ivory Coast (circles of Abengourou, Bondoukou, Bouaflé, Bouaké, Daloa, Dimbokro, Gagnoa, Grand Lahou, Katiola, Man, Sassandra, Séguéla, Tabou, Abidjan district) (1958). Unfortunately, the various operations were carried out in an uncoordinated manner.

During the years 1962-1963, the Ministry of Health carried out a count of the population village by village as part of a mass campaign for the eradication of smallpox [3].

During the same period, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Plan launched a series of studies designed to provide base data for the regionalisation of economic development, each of these studies incorporating a demographic sample survey : Bouakka region (1962-1963), Korhogo region (1962-1963), Man region (1962-1963), South-East region (1963-64), Dalos region (1963-1964), Odienné region (1963-1964), Dabou region (1965) and the Abidjan suburban zone (1963-1966).

Using the findings of these surveys as well as of several urban censuses carried out after 1960 (Abengourou 1962, Grand Bassam and Korhogo 1963, Toumodi and Bougouanou 1964, Anyama and Dabout 1966, Bingerville 1967) the Ministry of the Plan arrived at an estimate of the population of the Ivory Coast in 1965, not only numerically but also by sex and age groups as well as providing the first reliable data on movements [4].

Finally, in 1975, the first general census of the population was carried out by the Statistical Board (Ministry of Economy and Finance), resulting in population figures which the previous compilations did not give a hint of.

Table 43
IVORY COAST - EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION
FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES

YEAR	TOTAL	IVORIAN POPULATION	NON-IVORIAN POPULATION
1917 (1)	1 532 000	-	-
1936 (1)	1 931 000	-	-
1946 (1)	2 118 000	-	-
1956 (1)	2 661 000	-	-
1965 (2)	4 000 000	3 300 000	700 000
1975 (3)	6 709 600	5 230 580	1 479 020

Sources: (1) [2]
 (2) [4]
 (3) Census listings

II. CRITICAL STUDY OF SOURCES

Emphasis will be placed on those sources which are most widely used at present or in the process of being made available :

- the synthesis of Regional Studies 1962-1964
- the General Population Census of 1975
- the multiround demographic survey in the process of being completed

For the latter exercise, the appraisal will be relatively limited by the force of circumstance in so far as full results are not yet available.

1) Reference Population

De jure and de facto population

Given the importance of migration in the Ivory Coast, and the variety both in size, frequency and classification of these movements, the total population of a region or the country can vary considerably depending on whether the de jure or the de facto population is concerned. In the application and analysis of recent exercises, it is essentially the de jure population which is involved, but its definition varies from one survey to another.

For example, according to Louis Roussel, in the regional surveys of 1962-1965, the residence criterion applied in principle for foreign labourers was a stay of at least five years in the Ivory Coast. Obviously the foreign population is thus greatly minimised.

At the General Census of Population in 1975 every person who had stayed at the place of census for six months or more was considered to be a resident. Meanwhile as far as the multi-round demographic survey is concerned the qualification is residence of six months or the intention of staying for an equal or greater period in the locality.

The problem of foreigners

The number of foreigners resident in the Ivory Coast according to the various surveys and censuses is a function partly of the criteria adopted for the definition of the "residence status", and partly the interpretation of the definition of foreigners itself.

When a continuous stay of five years in the Ivory Coast is applied as the criterion of residence - as was the case in the regional surveys of 1962-1965 - there is considerable underestimation of the number of foreigners in comparison with the criterion of six months applied during later collection exercises. As many foreigners are employed as agricultural labourers, their length of stay in a given place is effectively linked to the farming calendar.

But even more delicate is the definition of "foreigners" which itself depends on the method of determining Ivory Coast nationality. In theory, any person whose father or mother is of Ivory Coast nationality themselves possess nationality. In practice it is not usually possible to verify the nationality of people surveyed, as the possession of national identity cards is not widely established, especially in rural areas. In general, personal declarations by surveyed populations have to be trusted and there is the near-certainty that numerous "foreigners" belonging to ethnic groups common to the Ivory Coast and neighbouring states, distinguished neither by dialect or way of life, declare themselves as Ivory Coast nationals.

We are therefore dealing with transfers which swell the declared Ivory Coast population. However it must be noted that these transfers are not haphazard: the age pyramid of the declared Ivory Coast population at the census of 1975 is in fact very regular, in particular as regards the sex ratio, while the age pyramid for the foreign population displays all the characteristics of a migrant population (high male ratio, spectacular peaks for the active age group, etc...). These transfers are therefore in fact foreigners to some extent settled in the Ivory Coast, living with all their family.

The transfers simply change the ratio of Ivory Coast nationals to foreigners without affecting the global population figure.

Nevertheless it appears that the total population is underestimated to the extent that many foreigners avoid censuses or surveys whether through fear (the foreigners leave the camp on the arrival of the survey interviewers), or because they are in an illegal situation (in the case of foreigners who have established farming camps in classified forests) or because they are away from their home when the survey passes the locality (in the case of Europeans) and are not taken into account.

It is to be regretted that the control survey which followed the 1975 census took place in very unfavourable circumstances and could not be utilised, thus rendering impossible the measurement of this underestimation. The comparison of figures obtained from different rounds of the demographic survey will probably allow some adjustments to be made.

2) Field

The geographical coverage of the various collection exercises has been described in the first chapter. The delineation of urban zones has followed the progress of urbanisation in time but is not always based on clearly defined criteria, making comparisons rather difficult. Just prior to the 1975 census, a list of localities comprising the "urban sector" was defined based in part on the size of towns and in part on the estimated percentage of the active non-agricultural population. The same list was used for the multiround demographic survey.

The fact that the same definition of "urban sector" was retained allows useful comparisons. However it must be noted that the official boundaries of a certain number of localities which have recently attained full commune status have been changed and therefore that for the purposes of analysis the figures must be corrected correspondingly.

A detailed analysis of the locality file in the process of being computerised (including not only demographic data but also on equipment and infrastructure) will probably allow different criteria of urbanisation to be tested and the elaboration of a more precise classification of the urban environment.

3) Factors likely to influence quality of collection

Motivation of surveyed population

In rural areas, the population is usually not reticent at surveys after the supervisor has suitably prepared them for the arrival of the interviewers. Refusals are rare and usually end up being overcome. However it appears that, as has already been pointed out, a certain number of foreigners avoid the survey.

In urban areas, by contrast, the difficulties are greater because the population often views the visit of the interviewer as a waste of time, even an infringement of privacy, and the rhythm of city life does not allow lengthy explanations of the aims of the survey. For this reason, it is essential to distribute hand-outs before the survey explaining its objectives and specifying a date. It should also be noted that the city dwellers are more sensitive than the villagers towards the attitude of the interviewer, the time of the visit, and in certain cases to the nature of the explanations capable of being offered.

Difficulties of surveying

These are naturally very numerous and it will suffice to list them briefly :

- Season : in the rainy season many areas are difficult to reach and there is a great temptation of the interviewer to avoid certain hamlets or camps;
- Habitat : in the towns it is extremely difficult to count the population of certain districts where the yards are overcrowded (figures of 100 per compound are not rare) or in shanty town areas;
- Village organisation : throughout the forest areas, and to a lesser extent in the savannah, the cultivators move incessantly between their village residence and the farming encampment which can obviously lead to omissions and double-counting;
- Dialect : sixty dialects are spoken in the Ivory Coast and it is not always possible to interview each inhabitant in his or her own language, while migratory movement produces intermingling so that villages where only one dialect is spoken are rare. Resorting to interpreters, often essential, very probably detracts from the quality of the information obtained.

Training of interviewers

The classroom training of interviewers, intensive as it is, cannot replace actual job experience and it is in fact only after a month in the field that interviewers can really be evaluated and the quality of collection considered truly satisfactory, assuming that super-

vision has been very thorough. It is therefore not so much the theoretical training of interviewers which poses a problem as practical experience and supervision. However the lack of finance generally makes it impossible to keep interviewers between two surveys and hence to constitute a body of experienced interviewers. It also often precludes a lengthy practical training course. Furthermore the shortage of interviewers does not allow strict quality control for large scale operations.

Sampling problems

These are in various degrees and include :

- rapid obsolescence of the sampling frames available, even faster where migratory movements are significant;
- the difficulty of establishing a viable sampling plan for all aspects of surveys with multiple objectives (e.g. the regional survey of 1962-1965) or a satisfactory one as far as migratory movements are concerned;
- the often doubtful extent to which sampling units are respected by the survey interviewers in the absence of very strict supervision;
- the ignorance of the population who find it hard to understand why one part of the village is surveyed and not another and above all why the whole family in the traditional sense is not surveyed.

III. CONCLUSIONS

1) Proposed evolution of the population size from 1920 to 1975

Table 44

IVORY COAST - PROPOSED EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION SIZE FROM 1920 TO 1975

YEAR	POPULATION
1920	1 825 000
1930	2 075 000
1940	1 350 000
1945	2 525 000
1950	2 775 000
1955	3 050 000
1960	3 865 000
1965	4 500 000
1970	5 500 000
1975	6 702 000

Source: [1]

These estimates have been made by the Ministry of Planning (Board for Development Studies). The population figure for 1965 has been adjusted to take into account the underestimation of foreign population.

2) Proposed improvement

The multi-round demographic survey will fill enormous gaps in the knowledge of population movement. The latest data available effectively dates from the regional surveys of 1962-1965.

The implementation of a project for the improvement of Civil Registration would allow the evolution of birth-rate and mortality to be observed. This would however not be sufficient for the annual updating of the population figure given the importance of migration which accounts for nearly 30% of population growth. However, given the sensitivity of migratory movement to the economic and political situations in the countries of the region, it is extremely risky to hypothesise on the evaluation of the rate of migration. Counting at the frontier of international rail travellers on the Abidjan-Ouagadougou line would provide an excellent indication of movements between Upper Volta and the Ivory Coast and the National Institute of Statistics and Demography of Upper Volta has elaborated a project to accomplish this. But it will remain very difficult to evaluate the trend of migratory movements relating to the other neighbouring countries.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1.- "La Côte d'Ivoire en chiffres - 1978", Ministère de l'Economie, des et du Plan, Abidjan
- 2.- "Inventaire économique de la Côte d'Ivoire 1947-1956", 1958, Ministère du Plan, Service de la Statistique
- 3.- "Répertoire des localités de la Côte d'Ivoire et population. Classement par circonscription administrative", October 1965, Ministère de la Santé Publique, Institut d'Hygiène et Ministère des Finances des Affaires Economiques et du Plan, Direction de la statistique, Abidjan
- 4.- ROUSSEL (L), "Côte d'Ivoire 1965, population - études régionales 1962-1965 - synthèse", July 1967, Ministère du Plan, Abidjan
- 5.- SIMONET (M), "Pour un programme national d'orientation, de coordination et de contrôle des études démographiques en Côte d'Ivoire", Etudes économiques et financières n° 7, September 1971, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances, Bureau d'études et de coordination
- 6.- TRAORE BAKARY, "Essai bibliographique des publications portant sur la démographie de la Côte d'Ivoire", April 1977, CIRES, Working Paper N° 10

Groupe de Démographie Africaine

IDP_INED_INSEE_MINCOOP_ORSTOM

**POPULATION SIZE
IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES :
AN EVALUATION**

Volume I

Paris
1986

Le groupe de Démographie africaine IDP - INED - INSEE - MINCOOP-ORSTOM

est un organisme de liaison non officiel entre les statisticiens, démographes et autres techniciens qui s'intéressent aux questions de population dans les pays d'Afrique.

Il effectue des travaux de synthèse ou méthodologiques à partir des données recueillies ou des techniques mises en oeuvre dans ces pays ; il rend compte des travaux qui y sont réalisés dans le domaine de la démographie et d'une manière générale s'efforce d'informer les personnes intéressées par toute question ayant trait à la démographie africaine.

PUBLICATIONS DU GROUPE

- « Démographie africaine », bulletin de liaison :
 - n° 0 2^{ème} trimestre 1971 à n° 28 septembre-décembre 1978 (poursuite de cette publication à Yaoundé - IFORD)
 - numéros spéciaux 1 à 13.
- « Études et documents », prolongement des numéros spéciaux du bulletin de liaison.
- « Afrique Noire, Madagascar, Comores - Démographie comparée » tomes I et II - INSEE, INED, DGRST, Paris 1967.
- « Les enquêtes démographiques à passages répétés » Application à l'Afrique d'expression française et à Madagascar - Méthodologie - ORSTOM, INSEE, INED, Paris 1971.
- « Sources et analyse des données démographiques » - Application à l'Afrique d'expression française et à Madagascar - INED, INSEE, MINCOOP, ORSTOM, - Paris 1973-1977.
 - 1^{ère} partie : Sources des données
 - 2^{ème} partie : Ajustement de données imparfaites
 - 3^{ème} partie : Analyse des données (tomes I et II).
- « Le traitement informatique des enquêtes statistiques » - Groupe de démographie africaine, INSEE - Paris 1978.
- « Le recensement des nomades mauritaniens » - Yves PACCOU - Paris, 1979.
- « Recensements africains - 1^{re} partie : Monographies méthodologiques » - Paris, novembre 1980 et février 1981.
- « Recensements africains - 2^e partie : Synthèse méthodologique » - Paris, octobre 1981.
- « Les structures par sexe et âge en Afrique » - Gilles ROGER, Dominique WALTISPERGER et Christine CORBILLE-GUITTON - Paris, 1981.
- « L'évaluation des effectifs de la population des pays africains », tome I, Paris, janvier 1982.
- « L'évaluation des effectifs de la population des pays africains », tome II, Paris, octobre 1984.
- "Contribution à l'analyse des données démographiques imparfaites des pays africains" - Rémy CLAIRIN - Paris, octobre 1985