

CEPED

DEMOGRAPHIC SAMPLE SURVEY IN WEST CAMEROON

I N S T R U C T I O N N ° 2

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RECORDING OF DEMOGRAPHIC EVENTS IN FORM D I

The demographic events to be recorded here are births and deaths.

It is of the utmost importance to be in a position to evaluate the number of children born annually in this country as well as the number of persons who died in each age group. Only so, can accurate forecasts be made as to the future development of the population.

This recording is done in two insets situated in the top center and right of Form D I.

Two very important remarks must be kept in mind:

a/ It is essential to define very precisely the twelve months' period.

If, for instance, the enumeration of the household takes place on January 17th 1964, you must record all events that happened on January 17th 1963 (during day time after sunrise) and after until the night before the enumeration. (You do not record events that happened on the very day of the enumeration after sunrise).

2/ The demographic events to be recorded here are all those that increase or decrease the size of the household under consideration.

Thus you record all events relating to permanent members of the household (P or A). You do not record events relating to visitors or strangers (V).

#### How to get the data on demographic events ?

After completing the enumeration of all members of the household (individual data), you question the Head of the Household (or his nearest relative if he is temporarily absent) in order to get a complete statement of the demographic events, checking with the other data you already have on the household.

## A/ RECORDING OF BIRTHS

Only live-births should be recorded, that is when the child was alive at the time of delivery, however short his subsequent life might have been (even a few minutes only). In order to ascertain whether he or she was alive, you ask whether the child cried after being born.

All live births to women belonging to the household at the time of the survey must be recorded. here are a few special cases:

- If a woman of the household delivers her child in a hospital or a maternity, or at her father's home, the birth should be recorded in her own household.

- If a woman had a child during the past twelve months, when she was living with her husband, if the husband died thereafter and if, according to custom, she came to live permanently with her parents or a relative - or if she married again-, then the birth should be recorded in her present (new) household.

On the other hand,

- The birth should not be recorded where a woman came for delivery only, or if, being a visitor, she gave birth to a child.

### Information required:

There are three columns:

B for boys

G for girls

T for the total (B + G)

In the first line you enter the number of children born alive during the last twelve months.

In the second line ("Dead since") you enter the number of children born during the last twelve months and who died previous to the survey of the household.

In the third line ("Surviving") the number of children who are still alive at the time of the survey.

(The figures in the second and third lines must add up to the figures in the first line).

In the last line ("Hospital"), you state the number of boys and girls recorded above who were born in a hospital or a maternity.

### Checking

You check the numbers recorded,

- with the number of children below one year (age stated under M in column I5) enumerated in the household (excluding the V); this number should normally be identical with the number of surviving children.

The deaths of those who deceased during the past twelve months must be recorded (see below).

- with the special information on women (Form D2). A birth should be recorded on the Form D2 pertaining to the child's mother. (See Instruction No 3).

### B/ RECORDING OF DEATHS

You record here all deaths of persons that, when they passed away, were residents of the household, occurred during the last twelve months. This recording is done in the first inset ("Events during the past twelve months"). In the second inset ("Last Death Prior To The Last Twelve Months"), you record the data on the last death that occurred before the beginning of said period (In any case only one death is to be recorded in this inset). Those may be deaths of babies, children, grown-ups, or old people, even if the person died while away from home. You do not record deaths of visitors, even if it happened inside the house or compound of the household.

This information is very important and calls for the greatest care and attention. It is one of the most difficult features of the field-workers' duties since they can get only second-hand information. Moreover, it is often unpleasant to speak about deceased persons. The field-worker must be at the same time diplomatic and insistent and make the respondents understand the importance of supplying the true facts about those deaths.

In order to be sure that all persons deceased during the last twelve months are stated, you shall proceed as follows:

You ask first:

who is the last person of your household who died?

Unless this is a newly-formed household, you will always get an answer.

Then by using calendars, you ascertain when that death happened.

If it happened before the beginning of the last twelve months, you draw a dash across the first inset "Deaths at any age during the past twelve months" and you fill the second inset "Last death prior to the last twelve months". The recording is completed.

If it happened during the last twelve months (which you check with the yearly calendar), you record the death in the first inset and you ask again:

"What was the last death in your household before the one you just mentioned?"

And again you ascertain whether or not it happened during the last twelve months.

And so on until you come to a death prior to the beginning of the twelve months' period.

Under normal circumstances, the second inset should always be filled.

The first one may or may not be filled as the case may be exceptional

Unless under very . circumstances , there will not be more than four deaths during the past twelve months in any household. Thus normally only the inset of the first form DI pertaining to a household should be filled.

Should it however happen that in a given household there were more than four deaths, you write "Continued" in the bottom right corner of the first inset, you draw a dash across the second inset and you continue on the second form D I, altering the numbers (5 instead of 1, - 6 instead of 2, etc.)

If the deceased person is a woman 15 years or above, you encircled the figure on top of column and put down a capital letter (A for the first woman, B for the second woman, and so on).

How to fill the lines

Name of the deceased person.

Relationship (to head of Household) in the same way as it is done for the living persons actually enumerated in the "Individual Data": son O x 5, I wife I2, etc.

Sex M (male) or F (female).

Age (This information is not always very easy to obtain accurately and you must be very careful)

Specify Y (years) or M (months) (Less than month, enter 0)

If the deceased person is a child between one and two years of age, you state here the number of months above one year: I Y 5 M. but if the child was 2 or above, you state only the years.

All children who were born and who died during the last twelve months must be recorded as dead, but you must be aware of the fact that a child below one year of age who died during the last twelve months was not necessarily born during that period:

For instance, the survey of the household takes place on January 27 1964. A boy was born in September 1962 and died in July 1963.

He was 10 months old when he died, but his birth must not be recorded.

Date of Death Use yearly calendar.

Always specify the month and the year: 8/63

If you can ascertain the exact day, state it: 4/I2/63

The date should fall into the twelve months' period. If the month is the same at one year's interval, you must ascertain that the death happened after the date of the survey.

For instance, the household is enumerated on March 12 1964, there was a death in March 1963, before recording it, you

must make sure that it occurred in the beginning of March 1963, on or after the 12th.

Place (where the person died)

- V if the death happened in the village or town you are enumerating,
- O if it happened in any other place inside or outside West Cameroon.

Hospital

- Yes if the person died in a hospital, dispensary or maternity,
- No otherwise

In the second inset the line "Observations" may be used especially in the case of a new household where no death occurred since it came into existence.

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For each death recorded in first inset (during past twelve months), you have to fill a Form D 8 ("Cause of Death"). See special instruction thereon.

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For each woman 15 years and above, who died during the past twelve months, you will fill a Form D 2 (Detailed Information on Women). See Instruction No 3.

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