



Munich Personal RePEc Archive

Statistical Digest of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing censuses in Africa

NZINGOULA, Gildas Crépin

African Union Commission

30 November 2012

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/36898/>

MPRA Paper No. 36898, posted 19 Oct 2013 17:59 UTC



Statistical Digest of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing censuses in Africa

August 2012

The objective of this digest is to briefly present the status of population and housing censuses in Africa. Population census is the total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing, publishing and distribution of demographic, economic and social data during a specified time, to all persons in a country. Population is basic to the production and distribution of material wealth. In order to plan for, and implement, economic and social development, administrative activity or scientific research, it is necessary to have reliable and detailed data on the size, distribution and composition of population. The population census is a primary source of these basic statistics, covering not only settled population but also homeless persons and nomadic groups. The chart below shows the status of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa. Thirty one African countries have already conducted the censuses and 20 have scheduled to conduct censuses. Only four African countries namely, Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and Western Sahara had not conducted or scheduled to conduct the 2010 round of population and housing survey.

Chart 1 : 2010 round of population and housing Censuses in Africa

Country or area	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Algeria										
Angola										
Benin										
Botswana										
Burkina Faso										
Burundi										
Cameroon										
Cape Verde										
Central African Republic										
Chad										
Comoros										
Congo										
Côte d'Ivoire										
Democratic Republic of the Congo										
Djibouti										
Egypt										
Equatorial Guinea										
Eritrea										
Ethiopia										
Gabon										
Gambia										
Ghana										
Guinea										
Guinea-Bissau										
Kenya										
Lesotho										
Liberia										
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya										
Madagascar										
Malawi										
Mali										
Mauritania										
Mauritius										
Morocco										
Mozambique										
Namibia										
Niger										
Nigeria										
Rwanda										
Sao Tome and Principe										
Senegal										
Seychelles										
Sierra Leone										
Somalia										
South Africa										
South Sudan										
Sudan										
Swaziland										
Togo										
Tunisia										
Uganda										
United Republic of Tanzania										
Western Sahara										
Zambia										
Zimbabwe										

census conducted
 census scheduled
 No census

Source : African Union Commission - Statistics Division

Content :

2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa	1
Trends of population in Africa by region, from 1980 to 2011	2
Population distribution in Africa, 2011	2
Africa population pyramid for in 2010 and 2000	3
Trends of population in Africa and major trade partners, from 1980 to 2011	3
Gross Domestic Product per capita, by African countries, in 2010 and 1980	4



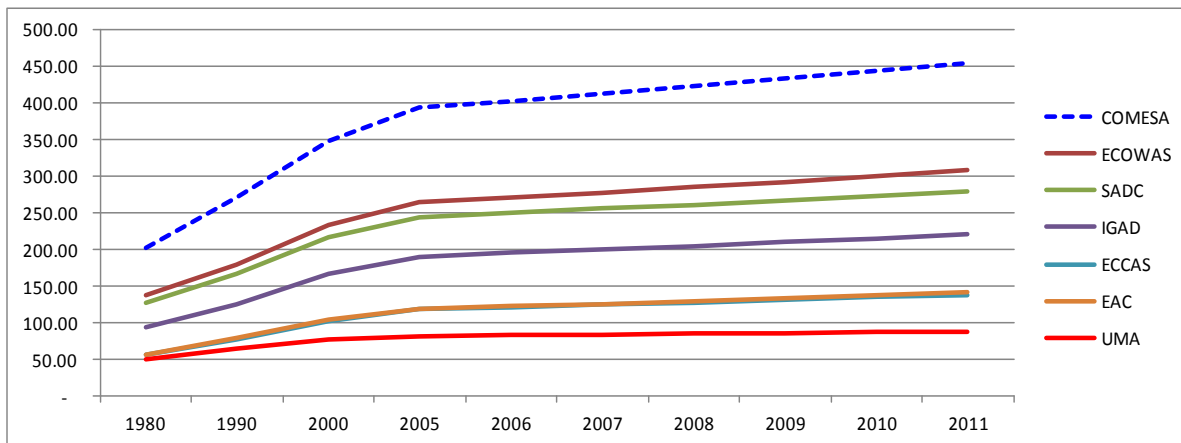
Time series analysis of population data by Regional Economic communities (RECs) show that the population of each REC has almost doubled between 1980 and 2011(see chart 2 below).

Among these RECs, COMESA is the most populous with more than 450 million inhabitants in 2011. However, the smallest RECs in terms of population,

UMA, has less inhabitants with a population of around 89 million.

Among the top five most populous countries, only South Africa, is an emerging country (see chart 3). This shows that, most of the countries don't take advantage of

Chart 2 : Trend of population (in million) by RECs in Africa , from 1980 to 2011



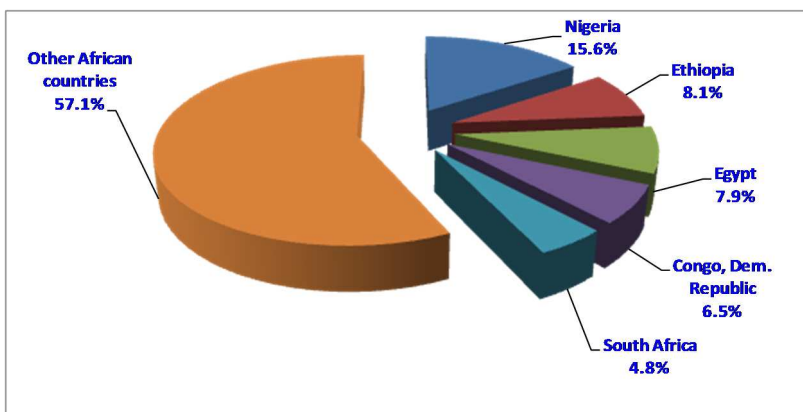
Source : African Union Commission - Statistics Division

of their big population as a resource.

It is estimated that If the world population will reach ten billion inhabitants in 2050, the African population will reach two billion inhabitants. This population growth can be explained by the high fertility rate in the continent which is one of the highest in the world. However,

Africa faces a social and economic situation that is viewed by many as alarming. It has lower life expectancy, higher mortality rates and is affected by more disease and illness conditions than any other region in the world. Therefore, policy makers should design an d maintain sound and stable macro economic policies to solve the problems.

Chart 3 : Population distribution in Africa, 2011



Source : African Union Commission - Statistics Division



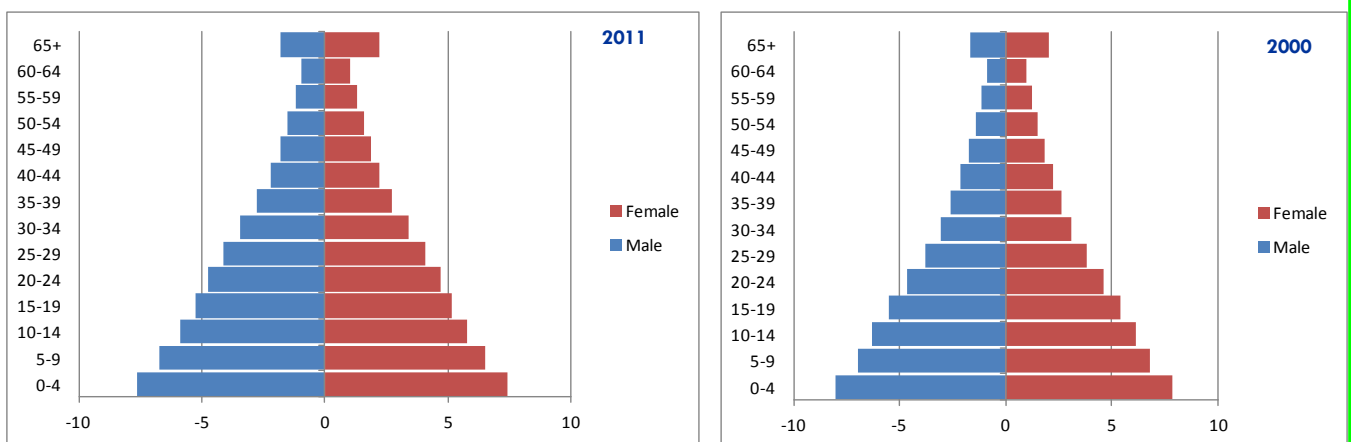
Total population in Africa in 2011 is about 1 billion with males accounting for 49.96 percent and females accounting for 50.04 percent. Africa is the second most populated continent constituting 15 percent of the world population with an annual population growth rate of 2.34 percent. The population structure of Africa by age has not changed since 2000 (see chart4). The age structure of the population is young with 39.9 percent of the population being in the age group 0-14. The elderly (65 and above) constitutes about four percent of the population in 2011.

opportunities for Africa.

The African continent should know that population is a resource and should develop strategies in order to utilize the human resources effectively.

For this reason, policy makers should develop and build strategies that will allow economic and demographic trends to evolve at the same frequency in order to take advantage of population growth and to allow Africa's economic development.

Chart 4: Africa population pyramid in 2011 and 2000

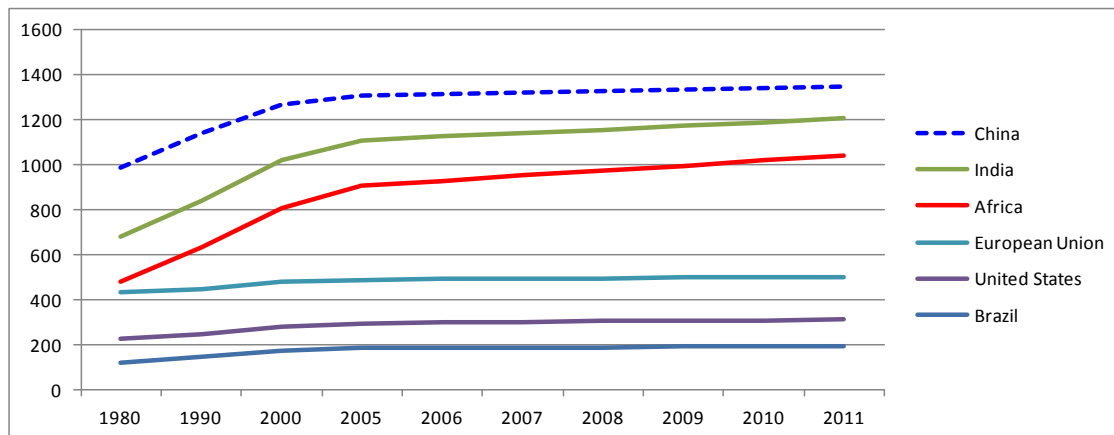


Source : African Union Commission- Statistics Division

Among the main trade partners of Africa, china has the largest population around 1.4 billion habitants followed by India with a population of 1.2 billion. Both countries belong to an elite circle of emerging countries

than in any other country in the world. Africa should follow the same steps like China and India to use population as resource to emerge.

Chart 5: Trends of population in Africa and major trade partners, from 1980 to 2011

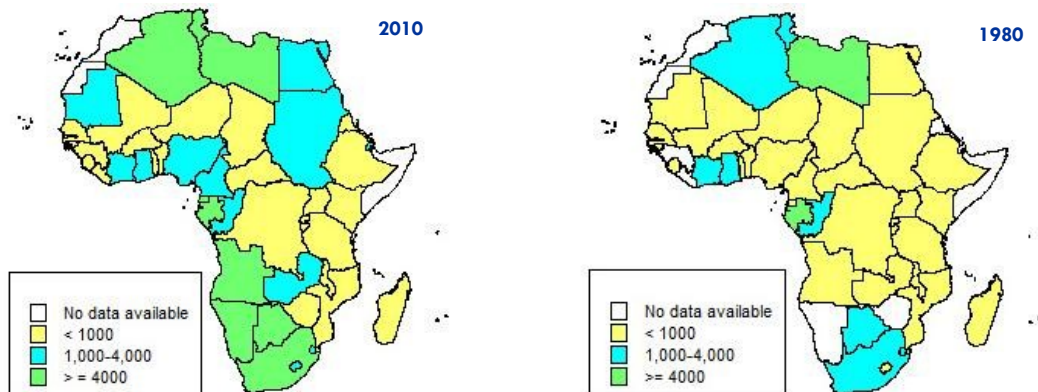


Source : African Union Commission - Statistics Division



□ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the total value of Goods and Services sold in a country. GDP per capita is the GDP of a country divided by its population. Sometimes, it is used to compare the living standards of people from different countries. The distribution of GDP across the continent has increased between 1980 and 2010 (see chart 6)

Chart 6 : Gross Domestic Product per capita by country



Source : African Union Commission - Statistics Division

As can be seen from the above chart some countries like Equatorial Guinea has made progress with GDP per capita growth of 143.872 in 1980 to 11,045.32 in 2010. In contrast, GDP per capita of some countries, like Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger have decreased during the same period. It has moved from 518.917 in 1980 to 185.841 in 2010 and from 449.065 in 1980 to 370.481 in 2010 respectively.

Most of the countries that had put much effort in improving GDP per capita are in North Africa, Central Africa and Southern African regions. This can be explained by the fact most of these countries are rich in natural resources.

However, both the regions (East and West) that have the lowest GDP per capita are the most populous regions in Africa. Therefore, policy makers should build strategies to increase the GDP per capita of these regions in particular and Africa in general using the welfare of the population.

Abbreviations and acronyms

- COMESA:** Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
- EAC:** East African Community
- ECCAS:** Economic Community of Central African States
- ECOWAS:** Economic Community of West African States
- IGAD:** Intergovernmental Authority for Development

- RECs :** Regional Economic Communities
- SADC:** Southern African Development Community
- AMU:** Arab Maghreb Union

For any comments or information on this statistics digest on the **2010 round of population and housing censuses**, please feel free to contact **Mr NZINGOULA Gildas Crépin**. I will really appreciate your support.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P.O.Box : 3243 –Roosevelt Street - W21K19

Tel : (251) 011 518 26 74 / Fax : (251) 11 551 78 44

Economic Affairs Department - Statistics Division - Website: <http://nzing-stat.voila.net> / Email : crepinn@african-union.org or gnzingoula@yahoo.fr