Keur Soce Health and Demographic Surveillance Site System in Senegal : Site Description, Baseline Findings and policy implication

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Objectives: To present baseline results from first phase Demographic and Health Surveillance in Keur Soce Subdistrict, Senegal. To compare results with national and international data and comment on their relevance to health development .

Design: Multi-round prospective community based study, Initial Census 2010

Study area: Keur Soce is located in rural areas in the region of Kaolack, in the district of Ndiédieng. The area lies between longitudes 16°00'14.8''and 16°07'13''W and latitudes 13°51'53'' and 14°00'00''N. It is located at 230 km from Dakar in the Sudano-Sahelian region of Senegal and covers an area of 478 sq. km. The estimated population is 29645 inhabitants and composed mostly of Wolof (90%) and lives mainly on agriculture and livestock. This population is distributed in 73 villages with an average density of 62.7 inhabitants / km². Almost all of the area is not electrified, running water (from deep wells) is available in just over half the area, otherwise the water comes from traditional wells.
The climate is characterized by the alternation of a long and dry season from November to June and a short rainy season from July to October.
The area has a 2 health post and 09 functional health huts.

Measurement: Baseline description of each resident including age, sex, marital status, relationship with HH, education**.** A full demographic profile was given.

Findings: The total population is 29,645 inhabitants. Forty two were under 15 years of age. The sex ratio is more pronounced for male than female regarding all age categories, except for the reproductive age group. Over 50% of the population are not married. Thus, the married monogamous represent 20% of the population and married polygamous represent 18% of the population. A small proportion of the population has attended a French school (15% Primary, Secondary and Higher 2% 2%). However, the majority of the population attended Koran school (55%). We also note that 20% of the population are illiterate.

Conclusion:
In conclusion, we can say that the study area is characterized by a very young population with population densities changing from one village to another. The sex ratio is favorable to men at all age groups except those of women of reproductive age.
The educational level is generally low and the majority of the population attends French school or Koranic.
An interpretation of the dependency ratio shows a small proportion of the working population (age group 15-64 years). The main activities of the people are agriculture and livestock.