



Postdoctoral research position

Estimating adult mortality in sub-Saharan Africa

Job description

A postdoctoral research position is available at the French National Institute for Demographic Studies (Institut national d'études démographiques, INED) under a 30-month fixed-term contract. The researcher's role will be to assess survey and census data in order to estimate adult mortality in sub-Saharan Africa.

Position available from 1 July 2012.

Context:

As part of its research remit in mortality and health, the French National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) is launching a research programme on mortality estimates in sub-Saharan Africa (MADAS project).

These estimates are essential to assess the extent of socioeconomic progress in sub-Saharan Africa and in particular to assess the attainment of several millennium development goals. In settings where civil registration is far from complete, data on the survival of close relatives (parents, siblings, household members) collected during censuses or surveys are used to measure mortality at adult ages, including maternal mortality. Such approaches to mortality measurement are particularly common in sub-Saharan countries.

The MADAS project (*Mortalité des adultes en Afrique sub-saharienne*) seeks to undertake a detailed study of the prevalence and the consequences of misreporting in survey data, in order to improve measurements of adult mortality in sub-Saharan Africa.

The aim of the project is to collect retrospective information on the survival of respondents' close relatives in demographic surveillance sites (DSS) which provide independently validated data on the survival of these close relatives. Linking, at individual level, the information given by respondents

with data collected prospectively provides a means to validate the retrospective data commonly used by demographers to estimate adult mortality.

The appointed researcher will join the MADAS project team and will be responsible for organizing surveys and conducting the analyses. His/her work will involve preparing field surveys on the survival of relatives, supervising data collection and capture, and performing data matching with information from demographic surveillance sites. The researcher will also take part in data analysis and in the drafting of reports and articles with other project members. He/she will share his/her time equally between France (Institut national d'études démographiques in Paris) and Senegal (Institut de recherche pour le développement - Unité mixte Urmite, Dakar).

Profile:

PhD in demography, epidemiology, statistics or a related discipline.

Skills required:

- in-depth knowledge of demographic methods,
- experience in organizing survey fieldwork and in quantitative data analysis,
- experience in prospective surveys and population monitoring as practiced in demographic surveillance sites,
- autonomy, scientific rigour, critical thinking,
- fluency in French (reading, speaking, writing) and in English.

Employer:

The French National Institute for Demographic Studies (INED) is a public research body specialized in population questions in Europe and across the world. Its research focuses on overarching demographic issues – births, deaths, union formation, migration, etc. – studied via a multidisciplinary approach using the tools of demography and other disciplines: statistics, epidemiology, sociology, anthropology, economics, history, geography.

Salary: Net salary around 2,200 euros per month.

Closing date for applications: 31 March 2012

Contact: Please send your application (CV and covering letter) by e-mail to Gilles Pison (gilles.pison@ined.fr) or Catherine Daurele (catherine.daurele@ined.fr).