Statistics for Socioeconomic Development Policy in Equatorial Guinea

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December 29, 2008

Summary:

Only Somalia ranks below Equatorial Guinea in the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Indicators. International agencies report diverse and sometimes contradictory statistics on the country. The last national census, upon which many statistical indicators must be framed, is not convincing. Although the data are unreliable, there is general agreement that the socioeconomic situation of the population is poor and may even be getting worse despite rapid growth in national income. Social development must begin with the selection of the critical issues, and proceed through the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies. Each phase requires credible, objective statistics. Efforts to improve the limited statistical base for Equatorial Guinea should take into account the unique situation of this society, which has a legacy of extreme underdevelopment and isolation, and a reign of terror that was arguably more intense than those in Cambodia or Rwanda. Added to this mix is the large current injection of petrodollars that is bringing rapid changes to a society that is not experienced in policy analysis and decision making. Equatorial Guinea might benefit from study of the progress in statistical capacity that has been made in its neighbor countries of Cameroon and Sao Tome and Principe. The World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicators for these two countries have shown significant improvements in recent years.

"Evidence-based policy-making is the only way of taking public policy decisions which is fully consistent with a democratic political process characterised by transparency and accountability."

Christopher Scott
London School of Economics

* Opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of DAI or USAID.

Resource wealth, institutions and development

There is a consensus among development professionals working on the problems of Equatorial Guinea that statistics for this country are sparse and unreliable. This paper is intended as background for persons seeking to understand Equatorial Guinea and, hopefully, to assist those who will try to improve the statistical basis for that understanding.

Since most of the country's petroleum and related products are produced by a few multinational companies and exported to countries with reliable trade statistics, there is greater confidence in the accuracy of those data. According to estimates from the US Energy Information Administration, only two countries in the world had a higher rate of per capita petroleum production in 2007. (Table 1.)

Table 1-World Production of Crude Oil, NGPL, and Other Liquids, and Refinery Processing Gain per Capita-2007

Country	Production 1000 BBl*/ day	Population 000's	Production Per capita
Qatar	1,136.04	841	1.35
Kuwait	2,613.19	2,851	0.92
Equatorial Guinea	400.46	507	0.79
United Arab Emirates	2,947.70	4,380	0.67
Norway	2,565.27	4,698	0.55
Brunei Darussalam	180.53	390	0.46
Saudi Arabia	10,233.93	24,735	0.41
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1,844.63	6,160	0.30
Oman	714.26	2,595	0.28
Gabon	243.94	1,331	0.18

*All products converted to petroleum barrel equivalents.

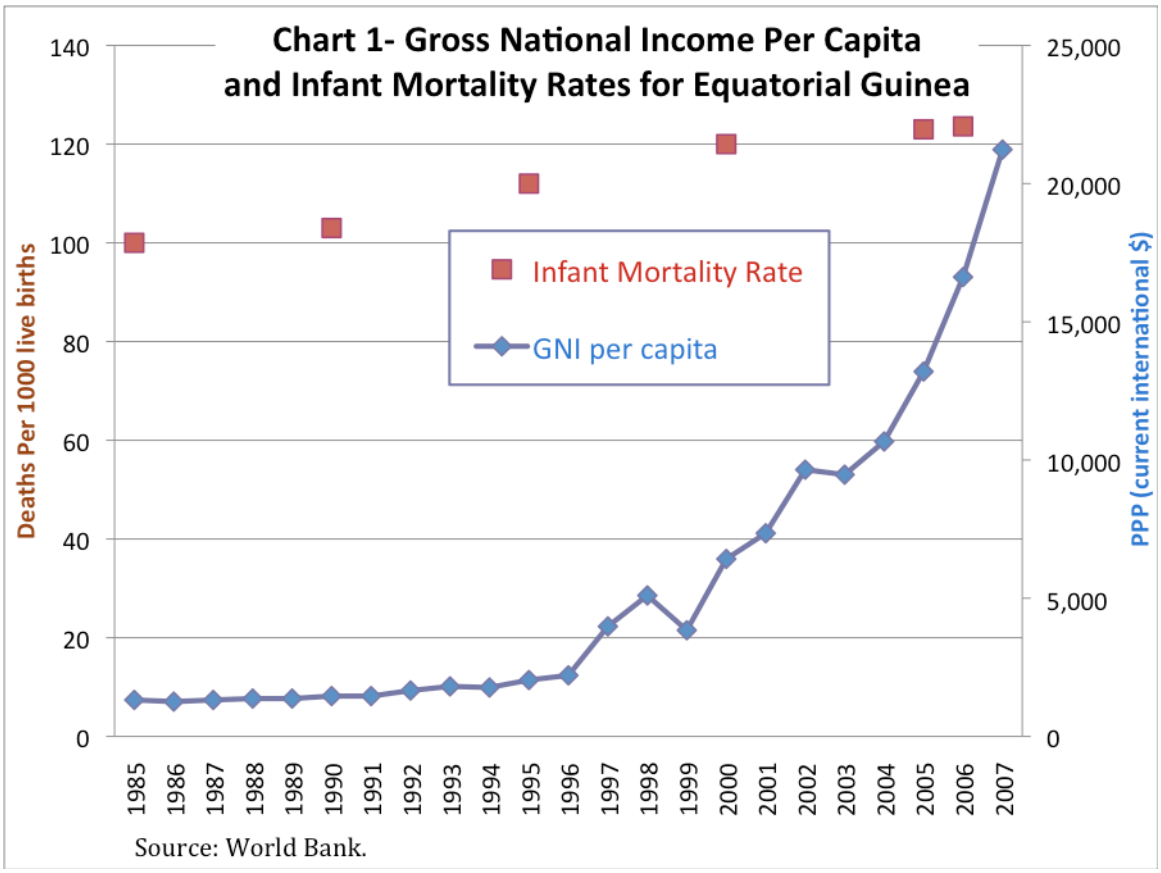
Source: Energy Information Administration, UN Population Program.

There is little doubt that petroleum exploitation has resulted in rapid growth in total income in Equatorial Guinea since the early 1990's. The few available socioeconomic statistics are much more uncertain but they are generally not positive and there is little doubt that the socioeconomic situation of the majority of the population is poor. One can argue that despite the large inflows of petrodollars, the commitment expressed by government authorities to improve the condition of the majority of the population may not have borne fruit.

Chart 1 uses data that support the proposition that income growth has not been associated with an improvement in living conditions of the general population. Equatorial Guinea had the highest growth rate for gross national income per capita in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) dollars[1] as reported by the

[1] Gross Domestic Product has grown even faster than Gross National Income, but is less relevant for socioeconomic welfare since it includes the income of nonlocal corporations operating in the extractive industries. Purchasing Power Parity adjustments to the data correct for international differences in the buying power of a dollar.

World Bank World Development Indicators for the period 1996 to 2006, 22.4% per year. This is a more than eightfold increase over the decade of the latest available data, however, according to the World Bank, the reported infant mortality rate has also risen over this period.

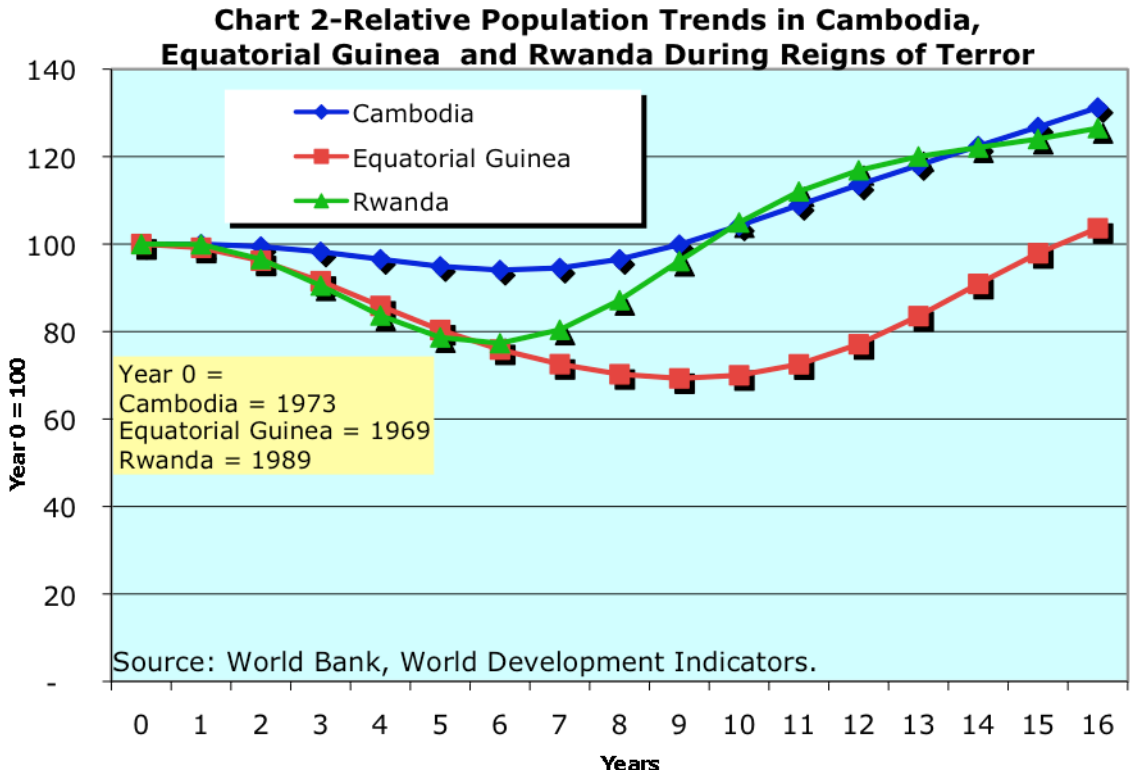


The data suggests we ask if Equatorial Guinea has been afflicted by the "resource curse", i.e., the theory that countries with large exports based on mineral wealth suffer from slower growth than other countries. Several mechanisms of transmission have been hypothesized for the resource curse, including a rising real exchange rate that chokes off labor-intensive activity in tradable goods (Dutch Disease), macroeconomic instability due to volatile resource prices, and a deterioration of governance. The latter may be due to a rise in counterproductive rent seeking and an indifference of the government to public needs and opinion that is enabled by the ability of the government to finance itself through resource royalties.

The argument that resource rich economies are inevitably cursed with slower rates of development than other economies is by no means universally accepted. Some recent empirical research asserts that causation may run in the opposite direction: Bad governments become more dependent on resources

for finance because of their failure to engage productively with the population.[2] The potential for natural resource exploitation to hinder development remains a question that is beyond the scope of the present paper, which only offers a brief overview of the current statistical situation Equatorial Guinea, and some implications for policy. The weakness of statistical information argues for caution in evaluating trends in social welfare in Equatorial Guinea. Effective policymaking requires a factual basis that is not currently available for this country.

In addition to the problems common to all Sub-Saharan Africa and the possible impact of a resource curse, explanations for institutional weakness in Equatorial Guinea should take into account the reign of terror under Francisco Macías Nguema who ruled the country from its independence from Spain in 1968 until 1979. While the population statistics have their limitations, they strongly suggest that the relative severity of what took place in Equatorial Guinea was more extreme and of longer duration than the reigns of terror in Cambodia or Ruanda. Cambodia has a population that is almost 30 times larger than Equatorial Guinea, and in absolute terms the tragedy of its killing fields is much greater. Similarly, Rwanda's population is almost 20 times as large as that in Equatorial Guinea and its tragedy was more intense in absolute terms as well. However, the available data on population trends indicate that the evil events in Equatorial Guinea were more severe relative to the size of its population than the events in Rwanda or Cambodia. (See Chart 2.)



[2] See, for example, "Do Natural Resources Fuel Authoritarianism? A Reappraisal of the Resource Curse"; Stephen Haber and Victor Menaldo;
http://www.stanford.edu/~vmenaldo/Papers/DoNaturalResourcesFuelAuthoritarianism

Of course, there could be important differences in the nature of the respective population declines, e.g., the share resulting from deaths versus exile. But, assuming the data are realistic, and other things equal, Macias Nguema more than deserves his nickname as the Pol Pot of Africa.

For those who are sometimes frustrated by the difficulty of making progress in social development in Equatorial Guinea, these data can help us to appreciate the depth of the trauma to the social fabric that we are trying to reweave.

Statistics for Development

A 2001 International Monetary Fund (IMF) report on the Fund's Article IV consultation with the government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea stated that the IMF mission:

> "… expressed concern about the adequacy, availability, and timeliness of statistical information for effective surveillance and policy monitoring, and stressed the importance for the authorities to provide monthly data and other key information to the Fund and to intensify efforts to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of statistics."[3]

Equatorial Guinea has been a participant in the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). Established in November 1999 in response to the UN resolution on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), PARIS21 was launched to act as a catalyst for promoting a culture of evidence-based policymaking and monitoring especially in developing countries. The PARIS21 Consortium is a partnership of policymakers, analysts, and statisticians that focuses on promoting high-quality, meaningful statistics, and designing sound policies. Day-to-day activities are organized by a Secretariat based in the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). PARIS21 promotes National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs) in order that countries have "…a robust framework and action plan for building the statistical capacity to meet both current and future data needs. In particular the aim is to align the statistical development strategy with wider poverty-focused national development programmes and strategies."[4] Equatorial Guinea, with technical support from the World Bank, produced an NSDS for the period 2003-2008, in November of 2002.[5]

[3] http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pn/2001/pn01106.htm#P27_365

[4] http://www.paris21.org/documents/1406.pdf

[5] République de Guinée Equatoriale ; Ministère de la Planification et du Développement Economique; "Stratégie de développement de la statistique de la République de Guinée Equatoriale. 2003-2008." http://www.paris21.org/documents/1596.pdf

Unfortunately, there is little evidence to date of improvement in the country's statistical capacity. A 2007 UNICEF report on progress toward the Millennium Development Goals in Equatorial Guinea states that there is "insufficient data to assess progress" for three of the seven domestic MDG goals.[6]

The IMF Article IV Consultation report for 2007 (released in May 2008) also showed no progress in statistical capacity:

> "Equatorial Guinea's statistical apparatus remains weak. The lack of timely, accurate, and comprehensive macroeconomic data hampers the monitoring of developments and policy formulation. The authorities need to create the National Statistical Institute with robust collection and analysis capabilities. Staff have laid out a methodology for improving estimates of non-oil GDP, which should be institutionalized. However, there remain critical deficiencies in the national accounts, price, and labor market statistics, and in indicators of poverty to measure progress toward the MDGs….
>
> "The lack of timely, accurate, and comprehensive macro- and socio-economic data hampers economic analysis."
>
> ….
>
> "Directors ….. encouraged the authorities to allocate with priority the required resources to enhance the statistical capacity, including by establishing a National Statistical Institute, and to consider participating in the General Data Dissemination System."[7]

Although enabling legislation was passed in 2001[8], Equatorial Guinea has not yet established the aforementioned National Statistical Institute, nor has the country entered into the IMF General Data Dissemination System.

The United Nations MDG Monitor web site reports that:

> "… efforts to monitor MDG compliance are checked by the fact that, in most cases, there is no trustworthy, up-to-date statistical information to provide objective documentation for the progress reported in the implementation of policies, programmes, and plans relating to social development. Until now Equatorial Guinea has had no system for gathering, compiling, and processing statistical information."[9]

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[6] http://www.childinfo.org/files/MDG_Profile_EquatorialGuinea_March2007.pdf

[7] http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2008/cr08156.pdf

[8] Article 23 of Law No. 3/201 of May 17, 2001. See (in French) http://www.paris21.org/pages/designing-nsds/NSDS-documents-knowledge-base/index.asp?tab=KnowledgeBase&option=nsp

[9] http://www.mdgmonitor.org/factsheets_00.cfm?c=GNQ&cd=226#

The current Millennium Development Goals Framework has eight individual goals, some of which contain multiple targets. Many of these targets contain more than one proposed statistical indicator to measure progress. Goal 8, "Develop a Global Partnership for Development", includes some indicators that apply only to developed partner countries as well as some that apply only to land-locked countries, and therefore do not require domestic statistics for Equatorial Guinea. Excluding these targets and indicators, there are 15 targets and 36 statistical indicators proposed for the MDG for Equatorial Guinea. Analysis of the current data available in the World Bank's World Development Indicators online shows that of the 36 relevant statistical indicators proposed to monitor progress toward the Millennium Development Goals for Equatorial Guinea, 14 have aggregate data for at least two recent years, thus giving an idea of trends in the metric. Another seven statistical indicators report one observation for Equatorial Guinea, and there are no reported observations for 15 of the indicators. In addition, it is proposed that "All indicators should be disaggregated by sex and urban/rural as far as possible."[10]

The World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator provides a country-level index based on evaluation against a set of criteria consistent with international recommendations. This indicator gave Equatorial Guinea a score of 26 out of 100 in 2008. The overall score for all Low and Middle Income economies is 65. Out of 145 countries ranked in this survey, Equatorial Guinea ranks 143-144, equal to the Marshall Islands. Only Somalia has a lower score. The Indicator has three subcomponents: Statistical Practice (the ability to adhere to internationally recommended standards and methods); Data Collection (frequency of censuses/surveys and completeness of vital registration); and Indicator Availability (availability and frequency of key socioeconomic indicators). (See Table 2.)

Table 2-2008 Statistical Capacity Indicators (on a scale of 0-100)

Indicator	Equatorial Guinea	All Countries*
Overall	26	65
Statistical Practice	0	56
Data Collection	20	62
Indicator Availability	57	77

* 145 countries.
Source: World Bank, Statistical Practice (2008)
http://go.worldbank.org/0LJX63EF90

Equatorial Guinea scores lowest on the Statistical Practice sub-indicator (0), with a somewhat higher score on data collection (20) and has its highest score on Availability (57). Although the best score was on the Availability sub-Indicator, Equatorial Guinea still ranked 106 out of 145 countries in this subcomponent. Given the lower scores on Statistical Practice and Data Collection, the quality of the available statistical series are obviously subject to serious doubts.

[10] http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm

In a paper written for PARIS21, Christopher Scott has argued that good statistics are necessary for a chain of related activities in development and not only for monitoring and evaluation:

> "… wherever possible, public policy decisions should be informed by careful analysis using sound and transparent data. More specifically, it may be defined as the systematic and rigorous use of statistics to:
>
> • Achieve issue recognition
>
> • Inform programme design and policy choice
>
> • Forecast the future
>
> • Monitor policy implementation
>
> • Evaluate policy impact"
>
> ….
>
> "Criteria other than those associated with evidence-based policy-making are often used to make public choices. These alternative criteria include:
>
> • Power and influence of sectional interests
>
> • Corruption
>
> • Political ideology
>
> • Arbitrariness
>
> • Anecdote
>
> "Evidence-based policy-making is the only way of taking public policy decisions which is fully consistent with a democratic political process characterised by transparency and accountability." [11]

The Devil is in the Details

A brief review of some statistics for Equatorial Guinea will help illustrate the challenges facing the country in moving towards evidence-based policy-making.

The reign of terror of President Francisco Macías Nguema in the 1970's was so disruptive that the total population estimate for the country fell by almost one-third, as suspected opponents were killed and

[11] Christopher Scott, "Measuring Up to the Measurement Problem: The role of statistics in evidence-based policy-making", London School of Economics, January 2005. http://www.paris21.org/documents/2086.pdf

large numbers of persons fled the country in fear for their lives. After Macias was eliminated in 1979, many people returned to the country.

Data from the three most recent censuses of population, 1983, 1994 and 2001, are available on the official website of the GREG Dirección General de Estadísticas y Cuentas Nacionales.[12] The census data reported for 2001 increased concerns about the country's statistical base. SEDAC, the Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center at Columbia University made the following observations on the EG Census of 2001:

> "According to the (Equatorial Guinea Statistical Directorate) website the most recent census was conducted in 2001, but in the UN website http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm, the census happened in 2002. Because of the high growth rate between 1994 and 2001, i.e., population increased from 0.4M in 1994 to 1.01M in 2001, the result of the most recent census (2001/2002) of Equatorial Guinea is purported to be inflated, -- …Users concerned about the high growth rate are advised to use our UN Adjusted Population Estimates for 1990 to 2000. "[13]

The US Department of State Human Rights report for 2002 states that:

> "Although the 2002 census estimated the population at 1,015,000, credible estimates put the number at closer to 500,000. The opposition claimed that the Government inflated the census in anticipation of the December presidential election."[14]

Table 3 shows data from the official censuses and makes some calculations based on those data. Using the population figure in the census for 1994 (406,151), the official 2001 population figure of 1,014,999 implies a compound rate of population growth of 14 percent per year. Clearly this number is too high to be the result of natural population growth and implies a rate of immigration that also is not credible. Using the averages of birth and death rates reported in the censuses of 1994 and 2001 to project the natural population growth from the 1994 census to 2001 implies that over one half million persons would have had to immigrate into Equatorial Guinea for the true population to be the reported 1+ million in 2001. This would imply that 51% of the population are in-migrants, however the 2001 census document cited in the table states that only 3.5% of the total population are in-migrants. The same document reports that 3.2% of the population has foreign citizenship.[15] The document states that the 1994 population figure underreports the true population for that year. However if we project the natural rate of population growth from the (suspiciously round) population figure of 300,000 reported in 1983, the discrepancy is even larger than that calculated using the 1994 figure. While it is likely that

[12] http://www.dgecnstat-ge.org/

[13] http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/gpw/country.jsp?iso=GNQ

[14] http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2002/18181.htm

[15] Pp. 11-12.

many nationals left Equatorial Guinea during the reign of terror of President Macias, alternative population estimates indicate that the bulk of those who would return had returned to the country by the mid 1980's. (See Chart 3, below.)

The automatic manner in which the incredible 2001 population statistic is cited in documents produced by the government and many counterparts in Equatorial Guinea demonstrates how far the country is from the goal of evidence-based policy formulation.

Table 3-Censuses of Population of the Republic Of Equatorial Guinea

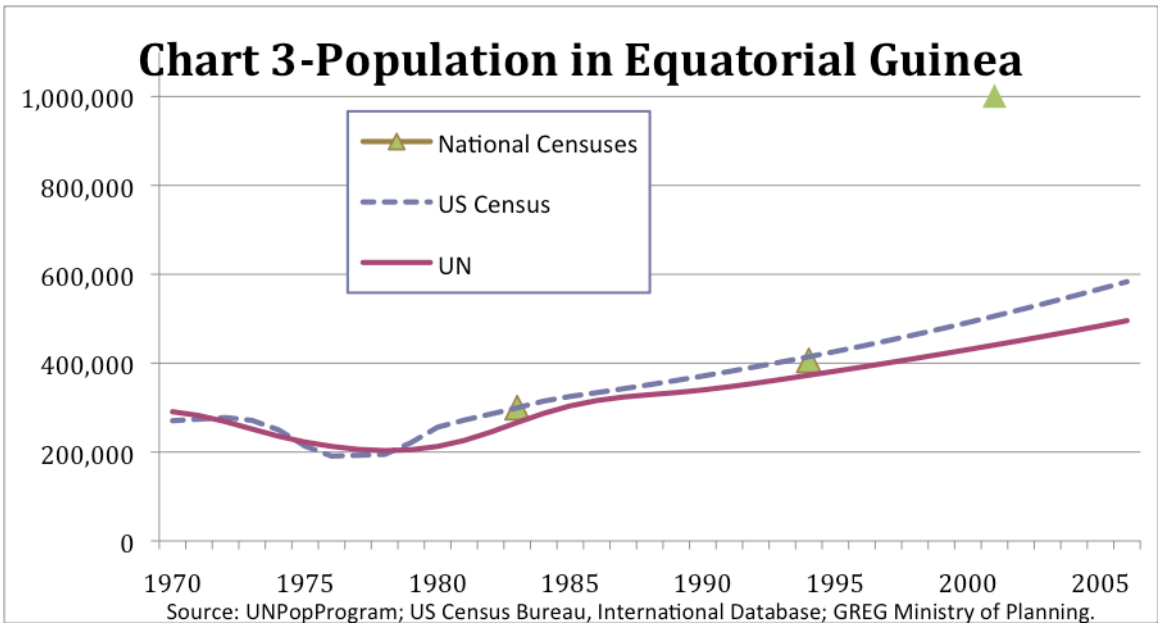
	1983	1994	2001
Population	300,000	406,151	1,014,999
Population growth rate since previous census		2.8%	14.0%
Population growth rate 1983-2001			7.0%
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 Population	42.0	43.1	43.2
Crude Death Rate per 1000 Population	19.0	14.2	13.7
Natural population growth rate (birth rate minus death rate)	2.3%	2.9%	3.0%
Population projected from previous census using the average natural growth rate reported for this census and the previous census		397,658	496,805
Increment of international migration necessary to adjust to the discrepancy between the reported population and the projection above		8,493	518,194
Implied international migrants since previous census as a % of total population		2%	51%
Share of in-migrants to total population reported in census			3.5%
Share of foreigners reported in total population			3.2%

Source: GREG, Ministerio de Planificación y Desarrollo Económico; Dirección General de Estadísticas y Cuentas Nacionales; "Principales Resultados del III Censo General de Población y Viviendas de La República de Guinea Ecuatorial", Malabo Julio 2002; and official web site: http://www.dgecnstat-ge.org/

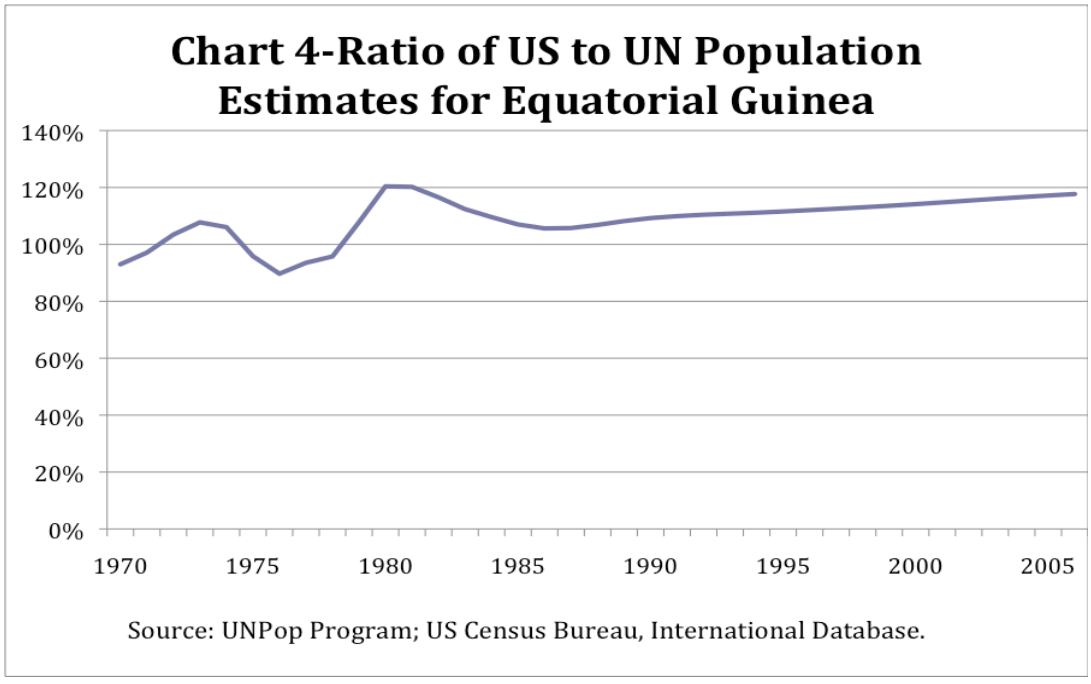
There are at least two alternative sources of time series population estimates for Equatorial Guinea: the United Nations Population Division,[16] and the US Bureau of the Census International Database.[17] Both series include data since 1950 and projections forward in time. The two series along with data points for the official censuses of 1983, 1994 and 2001 are shown in Chart 3 below.

[16] http://esa.un.org/unpp/index.asp

[17] http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/idbsprd.html

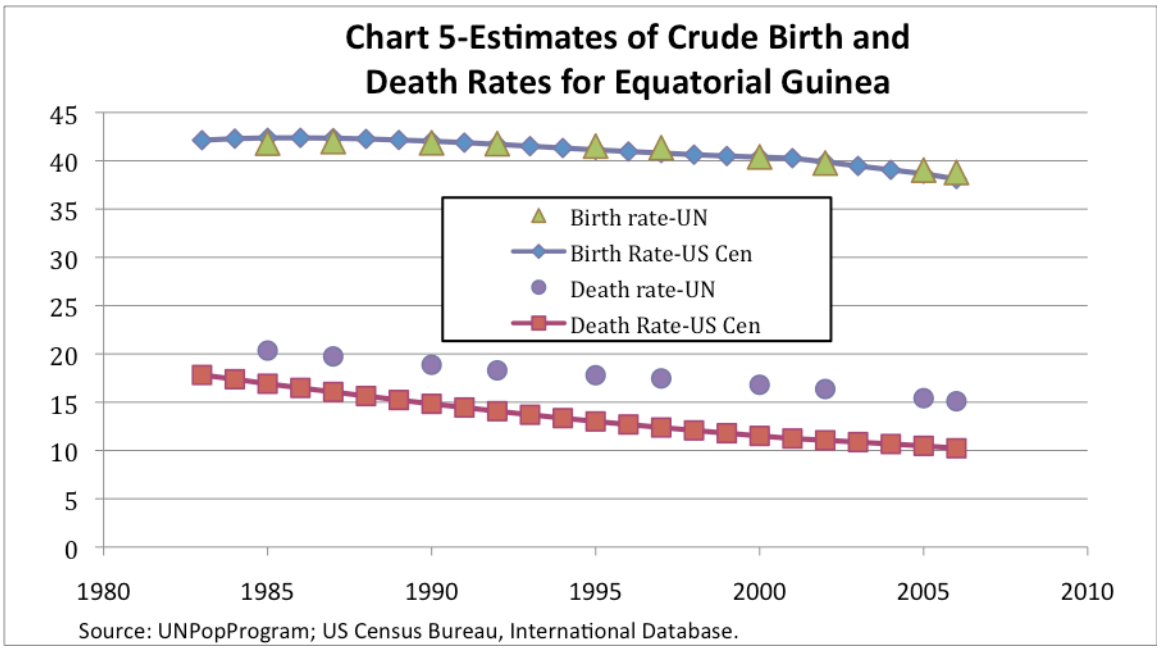


Both of these time series track the 1983 and 1994 censuses closely, although the US Census estimates are slightly closer to the linear interpolation between these two census years. The US Census Bureau population estimate for Equatorial Guinea has shown a higher growth rate than the UN estimates since 1985. Chart 4 below shows how the ratio of the US Census estimate to the UN estimate has been growing over time. For the year 2006, the US estimate is about twenty percent higher.



The primary reason for the difference between the two estimates is an increasing divergence in their estimates of death rates. There is very little difference in the birth rates used by the two series. (See Chart 5 below.) Understanding the reasons for these divergent death rate estimates is an item that merits further investigation. The US Census figure for the crude death rate in Equatorial Guinea in 2006 is lower than that reported for all but 12 of 50 Sub-Saharan countries in their database. Given the country's low scoring on the available socioeconomic indicators, this appears to be a rather low death rate. The death rate reported by the UN is more in line with Equatorial Guinea's socioeconomic peers.

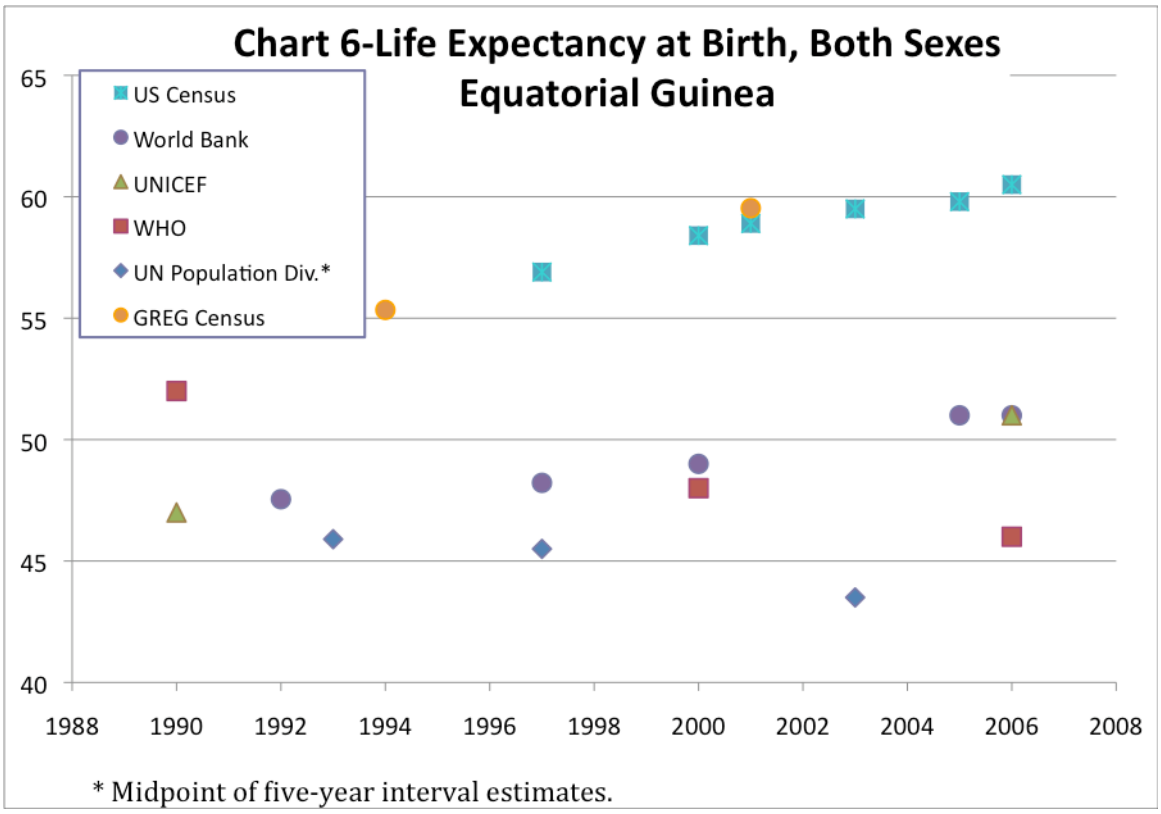
There is no indication that any international compilations of statistics have incorporated the 2001 population totals into their estimates of statistics for Equatorial Guinea, although the death rate reported in the 2001 census is close to that reported in the US Census International Database. Most international sources appear to be using the United Nations estimates. The CIA World Factbook uses the data from the US Census Bureau.



The weakness of data collection and reporting in Equatorial Guinea can be seen in the data discrepancies among several international agencies reporting estimates of life expectancy for Equatorial Guinea. Chart 6 below represents time series on overall life expectancy at birth reported on the websites of UNICEF, the US Census International Database, the United Nations Population Division, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the official GREG censuses. The life expectancy series reported by UNICEF and the World Bank appear to be from the same source and both report an increase in life expectancy. The US Census International Database has the highest estimate of life expectancy and it has also been rising in recent years. The unusually high life expectancy reported in the US Census

series (59.5 years) is consistent with their unusually low death rate and is also similar to the estimate produced in the official Equatorial Guinea Censuses of 2001.

It is notable that the increased life expectancy shown by the World Bank is in contrast to their reported time series for rising infant mortality rates shown in Chart 1 of the present paper. In contrast to the World Bank/UNICEF series, data reported by the United Nations and the World Health Organization both report declining life expectancy for Equatorial Guinea since the 1990's. UN and US Census Bureau data shown in Chart 5 both show different but declining death rates, but this does not necessarily demonstrate rising life expectancy since crude death rates do not make allowance for changes in the age distribution of the population. If population is rising as more children move into the young adult cohorts, overall death rates could fall even as age-specific death rates are rising.



The WHO web site states that:

> "The lack of complete and reliable mortality data, especially for low income countries and particularly on mortality among adults and the elderly, necessitates the application of modeling (based on data from other populations) to estimate life expectancy. WHO uses a standard method … to estimate and project life tables for all Member States

using comparable data. This may lead to minor differences compared with official life tables prepared by Member States."[18]

No details on the specific methodology for Equatorial Guinea were found on the web site.

The UN World Population Prospects Database states that Equatorial Guinea's life expectancy at birth is:

> "Derived from estimates of infant and child mortality by assuming that the age pattern of mortality conforms to the North model of the Coale-Demeny Model Life Tables. The demographic impact of AIDS has been factored into the mortality estimates."[19]

The World Bank reports that its Equatorial Guinea data come from:

> "World Bank staff estimates from various sources including census reports, the United Nations Population Division's World Population Prospects, national statistical offices, household surveys conducted by national agencies, and Macro International."[20]

What does it take to get better statistics?

It should be clear from the brief examination of demographic data in Equatorial Guinea that the statistics are not adequate to the challenges of formulating and implementing development policy in the nation. Basic census data are open to serious question as are all data that are built on this base. Without a reliable recent census, constructing a sample frame for surveys is problematic. Countries that lack a comprehensive vital registration system must rely on estimating techniques from incomplete data. Rapid changes in morbidity and mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) make it even harder to get a fix on the situation. Death rates and life expectancy rates in SSA are dependent on factors such as the incidence HIV/Aids and Malaria that can vary significantly over a relatively short period of time.[21] Chart 7 shows a clear correlation between higher rates of HIV infection and falling life expectancy. It is worth noting that the World Bank database used to produce this chart has a lower rate of HIV infection and a more favorable change in life expectancy for Equatorial Guinea than alternative sources for these statistics. It is possible that rapidly rising income and the influx of foreign workers has accelerated the spread of HIV/AIDS in Equatorial Guinea.

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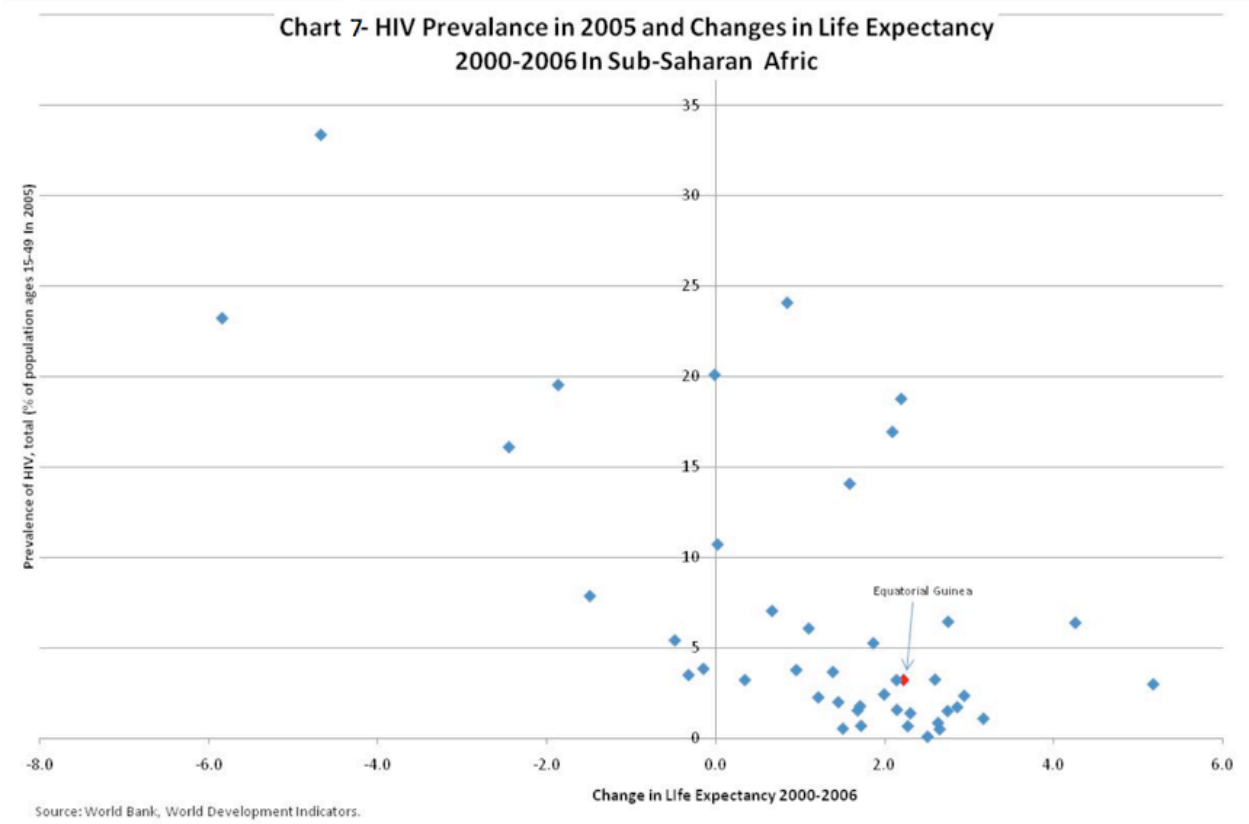
[18] http://www.who.int/whosis/indicators/compendium/2008/2let

[19] http://esa.un.org/wpp/sources/country.aspx (Select "Sources")

[20] http://ddp-ext.worldbank.org/ext/ddpreports/ViewSharedReport?REPORT_ID=9147&REQUEST_TYPE=VIEWADVANCED&WSP=N&HF=N/CPdefinition.asp

[21] See: National Center for Biotechnology Information; "Disease and Mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa". http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=dmssa

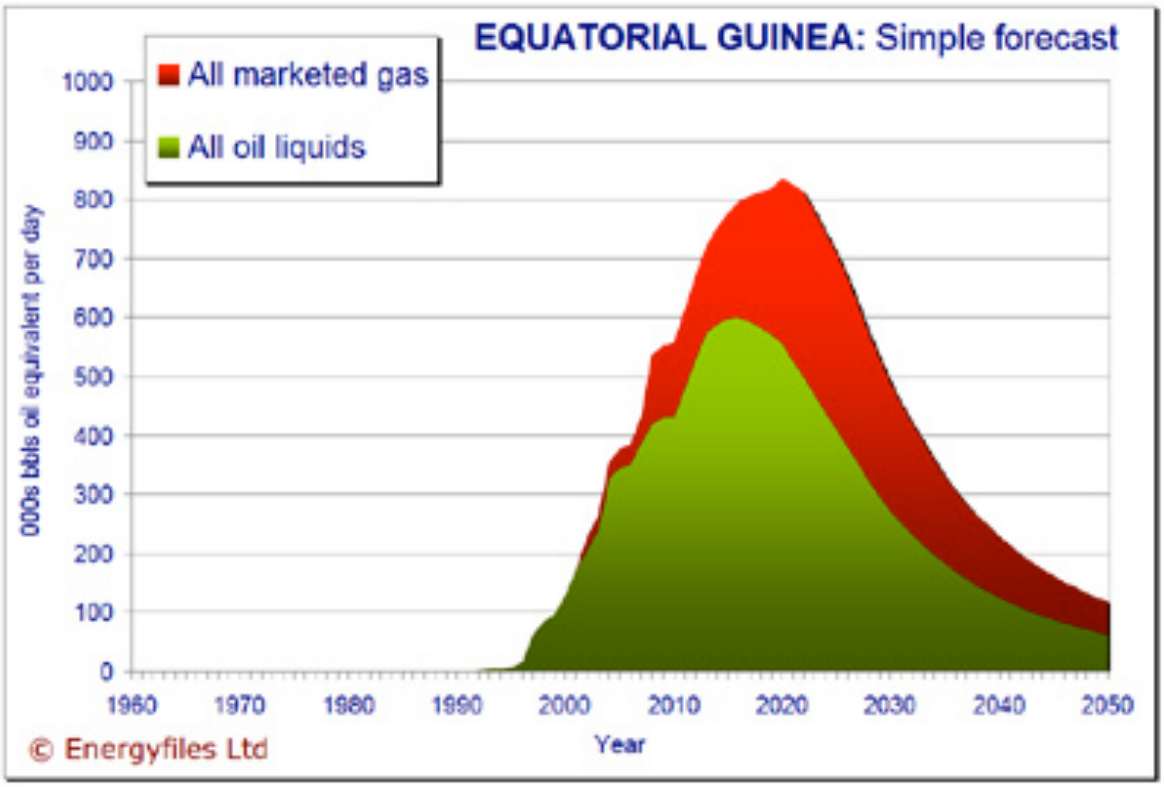


Political will and resources will be needed to fix Equatorial Guinea's problems. As long as the petroleum lasts, there will be no lack of financial resources. How long this will be the case is not within the scope of this essay or the expertise of the author, but Chart 8 gives an example of one estimate of a fairly limited timeline for the resource: The consulting firm Energy Files, Ltd. is forecasting peak production for the country around the year 2015.

Political will within the GREG is also difficult to ascertain. There may be a diversity of factions operating within the ruling class and part of the problem may be that dialog among different points of view has not progressed toward any consensus. An ideal scenario would entail dialog and consensus within the ruling class resulting in an outreach to the wider civil society followed by vigorous initiatives to strengthen statistical capacity and move forward with development of the society. Certain reasonable assumptions can help inform such a dialog:

- The petroleum resource is bringing certain irreversible changes to the nation.
- This resource base will not last forever.
- Technological changes reduce the ability of governments everywhere to control the flow of information to their populations. Expansion of Internet usage, satellite television and new cell phone technologies are altering the way populations gather and exchange information.
- In the long run, change cannot be arrested, but it can be managed.

Chart 8-Forecast for Equatorial Guinea Petroleum Production



http://www.energyfiles.com/afrme/eqguinea.html

Equatorial Guinea might benefit from consultation with two neighboring countries that have shown marked improvement in their Statistical Capacity Indicators in recent years. Table 4 shows the top twenty countries in a ranking of improvement on this indicator as measured by the slope of a linear regression line for their overall Statistical Capacity Indicators from 2004 to 2008. Cameroon has shown the greatest improvement (5.2p points per year) of all countries evaluated, although it still ranks as 61 out of 145 countries. Sao Tome and Principe ranks ninth in the world for improvement trend, although it still ranks at 103 in its overall 2008 score.

Table 4- 2008 Statistical Capacity Indicators For

Top Twenty in Annual Trend Improvement 2004-2008

	2008 Overall Score	2008 Score Rank*	Trend 2004-2008†	Trend Rank*
Cameroon	67	61	5.2	1
Afghanistan	32	135	4.9	2
Honduras	74	40	4.9	2
Armenia	93	1	4.3	4
Sierra Leone	42	123	4.2	5
Iraq	47	113	4.1	6
Liberia	32	135	4	7
Nigeria	54	92	4	7
Sao Tome and Principe	51	103	3.9	9
Bulgaria	88	5	3.6	10
Pakistan	83	19	3.3	11
Georgia	87	10	3.1	12
Trinidad and Tobago	74	40	3.1	12
Egypt, Arab Rep.	88	5	3	14
Moldova	85	15	3	14
St. Kitts and Nevis	58	84	2.9	16
Bosnia and Herzegovina	56	90	2.8	17
Rwanda	65	66	2.6	18
Serbia	59	78	2.5	19
Sudan	45	118	2.5	19
Yemen, Rep.	59	78	2.5	19

* Out of 145 countries.

† Slope of linear regression for 2004-2008 indicators

Source: World Bank, Statistical Practice (2008)

http://go.worldbank.org/0EZUI59C70