

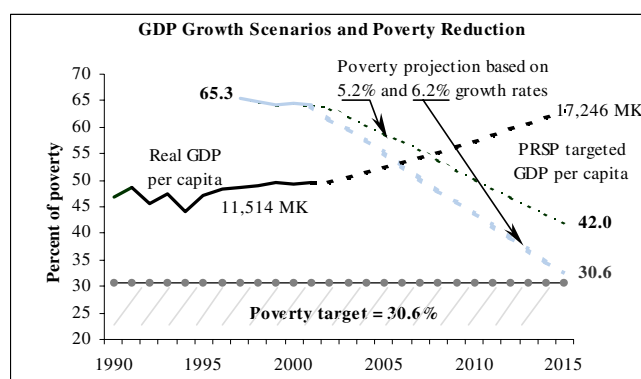
The *Standardized Survey Bulletin* presents key welfare outcome indicators extracted from surveys conducted by African National Statistical Offices (NSOs). The survey data files have been reformat- ted and “standardized” by the Operational Quality and Knowledge Services Unit of the World Bank’s Africa Region to facilitate comparisons across and within data sets.

Malawi Integrated Household Survey, 1997

Malawi is a relatively small country with an estimated population of 11 million and a land size (excluding inland waters) of approximately 94 thousand square km. Malawi population accounts for 1.2 percent of total Sub-Saharan Africa population. Life expectancy is extremely low at 39 years and a HIV/AIDS (15–49 years) prevalence rate of about 16 percent.

Poverty reduction

Based on the Integrated Household Survey (IHS), poverty was estimated at 65 percent in 1997. The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) calls for poverty to be halved by 2015. However, the decade of the 1990s is a lost opportunity, with the average GDP per capita growth rate at a low. The focus on poverty and its effects on population started in the late 1990s since no initiatives were well articulated earlier. As a result, this report uses the IHS 1997 poverty as a benchmark. Starting from 2002, if the annual GDP growth is 5.2 percent, a target set out by the PRSP, poverty will reduce to 42 percent by 2015. In order to halve poverty by 2015, GDP growth would have to be at an annual rate of 6.2 percent as shown in the figure above. The solid lines show the historical trend, while the dotted lines indicate the projec-



Data sources: Staff calculation based on MIHS 97 and World Bank Africa LDB.

With the first democratically elected government in 1994, Malawi embarked on a new development initiative that had poverty alleviation as the central national policy objective. The government, in consultation with stakeholders, prepared the PRSP, dated 04/01/02. The Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (MPRSP) emphasizes raising national productivity through sustainable broad-based economic growth and structural transformation, as well as sociocultural development.

About the Survey

Survey sample size	6,586 households 28,946 respondents
Year of survey	1998
Survey administration	National Statistical Office Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
Reports	-Profile of Poverty in Malawi: Poverty Analysis of the Integrated Household Survey 1998 -Poverty Monitoring Briefs (8 volumes) -Integrated Household Survey 1997/98
Contact	Commissioner of Statistics National Statistical Office P.O. Box 333, Zomba, Malawi e-mail: enquiries@statistics.gov.mw

The Africa Household Survey Databank and Standardized Survey Files

The Africa Household Survey Databank (AHSDB) contains one of the largest collection of household surveys on Africa in the World. It is maintained by the Bank, but the surveys remain the property of the relevant National Statistical Office (NSO) that carried out the survey. The AHSDB currently contains Household Budget Surveys (HBS), Living Standards Measurement Surveys (LSMS), Integrated and Priority Surveys (IS and PS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), and the Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) surveys. The surveys vary greatly in scope and structure, the need to make the data more accessible and available in user friendly formats has led to the establishment of the Standard files and Standard Indicators (SFSI) Project. For more information, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/poverty/databank> on the web.

What are Standard Files and Standard Indicators?

The objective of the SFSI program is to facilitate the monitoring of social and economic outcomes of national development programs, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. Standard files, extracted from household survey data, comprise a common set of core variables. These variables have common definitions and can be used to produce needed indicators in real time. Two standard files are produced for each survey,

one household level and one individual level data. They provide readily accessible social and living standards at the national level, as well as at sub-national levels for different income groups. Once survey data files have been "standardized," they can be accessed and queried through the World Bank's Intranet. The program is still in its development stage, but once completed, the standardized files and indicators will be directly accessible on the Internet.

This Standardized Survey Bulletin is one of the products from the SFSI program. It provides a description of the key survey findings, which can be used to facilitate the monitoring of a country's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To find out more, visit <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/stats> on the web.

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress. The goals focus efforts on achieving significant, measurable improvements in people's lives. The first seven goals are directed at reducing poverty in all its forms. The last goal is about global partnership for development. For information, visit: <http://www.developmentgoals.org>

tions based on PRSP target and MDG needs.

Characteristics of a typical Malawi household

- The average household size in Malawi is 4.4. Rural households are on average slightly larger than urban households (4.4 vis-à-vis 4.1). However, the poorest 20 percent of households in urban areas are as large as the poorest rural households. In general, poor households are significantly larger in size than nonpoor households where the average household size in poor households is 5.3 persons compared to 3.6 persons in the richest quintile.
- The ratio of dependents to working-age people (aged 15 to 64) is

much higher for the poor than for the nonpoor households. Even though the poorest households in rural and urban areas are similar in household size, rural households have a higher age dependency than the urban households.

- In both urban and rural areas, households are predominantly headed by men with a national average of 75 percent. Female headed households in rural areas are among the poorest.
- The relationship between poverty and the educational attainment of the household head is significant. For the country as a whole, 95 percent of household heads in the poorest quintile had either no education or failed to complete primary education.

- Rural-urban differences are large. For rural household heads, 90 percent had never gone to school or finished primary school; for urban areas, 36 percent had not. Majority heads with secondary completed or tertiary education belong to urban rich households.

How much do Malawans spend?

- *Disparity in total household expenditures.* Average per capita household incomes (adjusted for regional price differences) were around MK 431 per month in 1997, but this masked massive variations between groups. For the country as a whole, the richest households spent more than eleven times that of the poorest

households. When a separation is made between urban and rural households, the differences are even more extreme, with the poorest rural households averaging only MK 91 per month, compared with the wealthiest urban households, who consumed MK 3,820 per month—almost 40 times as much.

• *Food security.* Poor households commit a much higher share of their expenditures to food than nonpoor households. The extremely high share of food expenditures (78 percent) among rural poor households indicates a very low level of food security. Any shocks, such as temporary illness of a family member or even

a need to replace a farm tool, would squeeze the already low food consumptions.

• Rural-urban differences are extremely large, where rural households spend nearly twice as much proportionally of their income on food. The urban nonpoor spend only 26 percent on food, implying a high nonfood consumption.

Indicators	Unit of Measure	Expenditure Quintile								
		National			Rural			Urban		
		All	Poorest 20%	Richest 20%	All	Poorest 20%	Richest 20%	All	Poorest 20%	Richest 20%
Demographic Indicators										
Sample size (households)	Number	6,586	1,014	1,710	5,657	902	1,427	929	200	177
Total Population	000s	9,795	1,959	1,959	8,795	1,760	1,759	1,000	200	200
Age dependency ratio	Number	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.4
Average household size	Number	4.4	5.3	3.6	4.4	5.3	3.6	4.1	5.4	3.6
Head Of Household Characteristics										
Age Dependency by household structure										
Monogamous male	Number	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.5
Polygamous male	Number	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.7	..	..	..
Single male	Number	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0
De facto female	Number	1.1	1.3	0.7	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6
De jure female	Number	1.1	1.4	0.6	1.1	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.4
Education level of head										
No level	Percent	25.7	40.5	12.4	28.3	41.0	19.6	3.9	12.8	0.5
Primary, not completed	Percent	58.2	54.2	47.6	61.3	53.6	61.9	31.8	60.5	8.1
Primary completed, no secondary	Percent	6.1	1.9	12.3	4.7	1.8	7.5	17.5	10.9	14.4
Secondary not completed	Percent	0.4	..	0.9	0.4	..	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0
Secondary completed	Percent	6.1	0.7	19.0	3.2	0.7	8.4	30.7	10.8	37.4
Tertiary	Percent	1.1	0.2	4.3	0.2	0.3	0.7	8.6	0.8	23.8
Pre-school	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Undefined	Percent	2.4	2.5	3.4	1.9	2.6	1.2	6.7	3.3	14.8
Marital Status of head										
Monogamous male	Percent	68.1	65.1	65.7	67.9	65.1	66.2	69.6	78.1	55.7
Polygamous male	Percent	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.9	..	..	..
Single male	Percent	6.2	1.9	13.9	5.3	1.7	10.8	13.8	4.1	23.9
De facto female	Percent	7.1	9.5	5.1	7.6	9.7	6.6	3.1	4.9	3.6
De jure female	Percent	17.9	23.1	14.6	18.5	23.1	15.4	13.4	12.9	16.8
Labor Market										
Proportion aged 15-64 in population	Percent	53.0	46.5	61.6	52.1	46.4	58.7	61.5	51.8	70.9
Proportion employed (aged 15 to 64)	Percent	43.3	36.7	48.0	43.0	36.5	48.0	45.8	38.3	52.2
Females among employed (aged 15 to 64)	Percent	37.7	43.5	30.8	39.1	43.8	33.2	28.0	23.9	36.3
Employment Ratios (among labor force)										
Employment Ratio	Percent	96.8	97.0	96.7	97.1	97.1	97.6	95.0	96.8	97.0
Formal Employment among Employed	Percent	23.2	10.6	46.3	16.5	10.7	25.7	72.8	59.7	78.2
Public Employed among Formal Employment	Percent	39.4	18.9	45.9	37.7	17.4	48.0	42.3	35.3	45.3
Informal Employment among Employed	Percent	73.6	85.0	50.2	80.6	84.5	72.2	21.7	35.2	17.7
Self-Employed among Informal Employed	Percent	92.8	96.4	88.7	93.2	96.9	92.1	81.0	96.4	84.7
Employers among Employed	Percent	1.1	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.4
Proportion Employed in Agriculture	Percent	55.8	62.1	32.7	63.4	61.8	56.1	2.2	6.6	0.0
MDG1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger										
Mean monthly per capita expenditure	Malawi kwacha	431	95	1,086	308	91	637	1,456	298	3,820
Mean monthly share on food	Percent	70.9	77.9	55.3	74.3	77.9	67.0	42.5	55.8	25.9
Mean monthly share on health	Percent	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.5	1.3	1.6
Mean monthly share on education	Percent	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.6	1.7	0.5	4.3

- *Education expenditure.* On average, households spent 0.5 percent of their expenditures on education, but the rich spent more proportionally than the nonrich, indicating a significantly higher investment in the next generation among the rich than among the poor.
- *Health care.* Health expenditures are low. On average, households spend less than 1 percent of household expenditures on health, with negligible difference between nonpoor and poor households.
- Proportionally, urban households spend twice as much on health care as rural households. Given the much higher expenditure level in urban areas, this means that rural households spent very little on health care.

Do poor rural, children and females have educational opportunities?

- At the primary level, poor children, regardless of whether they live in urban or rural areas, are less likely to attend school than nonpoor children. The cycle of poverty will certainly prevent the next generation from escaping poverty if access to education is not improved. The net primary enrollment ratio (NPER) must increase by about 3 percent per year for poor children to achieve universal enrollment by 2015.
- No discrimination against girls exists at the primary level, with girls having actually higher enrollment rates, especially among the poorest households. However, there is a significant bias by area of residence, with the rural enrollment ratio being 57 percent and urban being 69 percent.
- The rural–urban gap in secondary enrollment ratio is significant. Net secondary enrollment ratio is 2 percent among rural children, versus 16 percent among urban children.

- Very few children from poor households attend secondary schools, particularly in rural areas. The net secondary enrollment ratio is 1 percent for the rural poor, while it is 30 percent for the urban nonpoor. Being poor predicts that the chances of going to secondary school remain low and are reserved mainly for the nonpoor.
- By area of residence, a large gap exists between rural and urban adult literacy rates, at 47 percent and 85 percent, respectively. A higher percentage of male literacy among adults indicates a past gender bias against girls in education.
- Literacy rates among 15–24 years are much higher than the adult literacy rate, indicating a recent success in promoting primary education. However, there is a big gender gap among all groups, except the urban rich, which is highly biased towards the males and by area of residence.

Does poverty determine the incidence of morbidity?

- Self reported illness has distinct regional features. Among rural households, the rich are much more likely to report illness than the poor, while in urban areas there is virtually no differences. However, while the poor may likely feel sick, they may not classify themselves sick.
- Rural households are more prone to sickness than urban households. The self-reported morbidity is much higher among rural than among urban population (29 vs. 16 percent).

Does poverty affect child malnutrition?

- On average, the poor are more likely to suffer from stunting and underweight (59 percent, 32 percent vis-à-vis 53 percent, 23 percent for the nonpoor, respectively).

However, correlation between anthropometric indicators and expenditure level is not strong among urban areas, but strong among rural households.

- Stunting levels are extremely high (about 56 percent) across quintile groups and by area of residence. The high incidence of malnutrition, even among nonpoor households, implies that other factors beyond consumption may affect child nutrition.
- Immunization coverage is quite high by SSA standards, at almost 90 percent. Rural children are less covered than the urban children, and poor children have less coverage than the rich children. Among urban rich households, 100 percent of children are fully immunized.

Who has access to safe drinking water?

- Access to safe drinking water is primarily determined by the area of residence. While only 45 percent of the rural population has access to safe drinking water (pipe, pipe-borne, and protected well), 90 percent of urban households have such access. This implies that rural households are more prone to waterborne diseases.
- Urban areas have very good access to piped water (82 percent); needless to say, such access is extremely low in rural areas (20 percent).

How do households ensure environmental sustainability?

- Firewood is the main source of fuel for rural residents, (97 percent). For urban residents, firewood (49 percent), electricity (27 percent), and charcoal (18 percent) are the predominant sources of fuel. For urban nonpoor, 61 percent of them use electricity as the main fuel.

	Unit of Measure	Expenditure Quintile								
		National			Rural			Urban		
		All	Poorest 20%	Richest 20%	All	Poorest 20%	Richest 20%	All	Poorest 20%	Richest 20%
<i>Indicators</i>										
MDG2: Education and Literacy; MDG3: Promote Gender Equality										
Access to primary school (within 30 minutes)	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Net primary enrollment rate										
Total	Percent	57.3	56.3	68.1	56.2	56.6	63.1	68.6	65.3	70.9
Male	Percent	56.0	53.1	71.8	54.8	53.6	65.6	68.4	57.3	71.6
Female	Percent	58.5	59.3	64.9	57.5	59.2	60.7	68.8	76.4	70.5
Net secondary enrollment rate										
Total	Percent	3.7	0.8	11.7	2.2	0.5	5.0	15.8	7.9	29.8
Male	Percent	3.8	1.4	11.9	2.3	0.8	5.5	16.2	9.1	29.9
Female	Percent	3.6	0.2	11.5	2.1	0.2	4.4	15.3	6.7	29.6
Tertiary enrolment rate per 10,000										
Total	per 10,000	3.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Adult literacy rate										
Total	Percent	51.3	36.1	71.6	47.1	35.4	58.4	85.4	73.8	86.1
Male	Percent	61.8	47.2	77.7	58.1	46.9	68.0	88.7	83.4	85.7
Female	Percent	41.5	26.8	64.9	36.9	25.9	48.4	81.8	64.7	86.5
Youth literacy rate										
Total	Percent	62.9	50.8	77.7	59.4	50.2	66.4	88.5	79.3	86.9
Male	Percent	68.5	57.3	80.2	65.6	57.9	72.7	90.2	84.9	87.1
Female	Percent	57.9	44.4	75.4	53.8	42.5	60.6	87.0	75.2	86.7
MDG4: Reduce Child Mortality; MDG5: Improve Maternal Health										
Proportion with time to Health Center less than 1 hour	Percent	52.4	43.9	69.4	47.9	45.6	52.4	90.3	77.7	96.2
Morbidity	Percent	27.8	24.0	26.8	29.2	23.6	33.7	15.5	15.9	13.2
Action taken when sick	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Health provider ownership										
Public	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Private - Modern Medicine	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Private - Traditional Healers	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MDG4: Reduce Child Mortality; MDG5: Improve Maternal Health										
Birth assisted by trained staff	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-year-olds immunisation coverage	Percent	87.1	88.8	87.3	86.5	89.1	84.4	97.2	90.8	100.0
1-year-olds immunized against measles	Percent	89.2	90.6	88.4	88.6	90.6	85.3	98.9	96.5	100.0
Stunting (6-59 months)	Percent	55.9	58.7	53.0	55.9	58.1	51.0	56.5	53.6	54.9
Wasting (6-59 months)	Percent	10.8	11.5	11.3	10.8	11.2	10.6	10.5	14.0	..
Underweight (6-59 months)	Percent	25.4	32.0	23.4	25.9	32.6	24.8	16.6	27.4	5.2
MDG7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability										
Owner occupancy rate	Percent	86.5	98.0	66.1	92.4	98.3	85.5	37.1	49.3	35.3
Proportion with distance to Water Source less than 2 km	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Proportion with time to Market less than 1 hour	Percent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Proportion with time to Market less than 1 hour	Percent	67.8	62.3	79.3	64.1	63.4	66.2	98.2	96.2	99.2
Access to improved water source										
Pipe (own tap)	Percent	5.6	0.2	19.7	1.1	0.2	2.6	42.7	12.6	72.1
Pipe borne	Percent	21.4	20.8	26.0	19.3	20.0	19.5	38.9	52.2	19.0
Well (Protected)	Percent	22.9	26.7	17.1	24.7	26.8	23.8	7.9	14.4	1.6
Total	Percent	49.9	47.8	62.8	45.1	47.0	45.9	89.5	79.2	92.7
Access to unimproved water source										
Surface Water	Percent	11.2	12.6	8.8	11.9	12.4	12.0	5.2	8.9	4.5
Other	Percent	38.9	39.7	28.5	43.0	40.6	42.0	5.3	11.9	2.8
Total	Percent	50.1	52.2	37.2	54.9	53.0	54.1	10.5	20.8	7.3
Traditional Fuel Use										
Firewood	Percent	92.1	98.5	76.8	97.3	98.5	95.9	48.7	76.1	17.6
Charcoal	Percent	2.2	0.3	6.6	0.4	0.2	0.5	17.9	18.1	11.6
Total	Percent	94.3	98.8	83.4	97.7	98.8	96.4	66.6	94.2	29.2
Nontraditional Fuel Use										
Kerosene	Percent	0.9	..	3.0	0.3	..	1.0	5.4	2.6	8.8
Electricity	Percent	3.1	0.1	12.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	27.3	3.2	60.8
Gas	Percent	0.0	..	0.2	..	..	..	0.4	..	1.3
Other	Percent	1.6	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.1	2.1	0.3	..	..
Total	Percent	5.7	1.2	16.6	2.3	1.2	3.6	33.4	5.8	70.8

Definitions

Household. Defined as a person or group of people living in the same compound (fenced or unfenced), answerable to the same head, and sharing a common source of food and/or income. In polygamous unions, if each household makes its own decisions, they are then considered different households.

Expenditure quintiles are derived by ranking weighted sample individuals according to annual deflated per capita expenditure. Individuals are used as the basis for estimating quintiles. Quintiles are constructed such that the first quintile represents the poorest 20 percent, the second quintile the next poorest 20 percent (less poor), and so on; the fifth quintile represents the richest 20 percent.

Price deflators are used to adjust expenditures for regional price differences.

Demographic indicators

Number of households in each quintile varies due to differences in household size, although the total number of individuals in each quintile is the same.

Total population. Sampled population weighted by the cluster weights to give the actual estimated population size.

Age dependency ratio. Ratio of people below 15 years and above 64 years old over people between 15 and 64 years old.

Education indicators (enrollments rates based on UNESCO definitions)

Net primary enrollment rate. The total number of children of primary school age (6 to 9 years) enrolled as a proportion of the total number of children of primary school age.

Net secondary enrollment rate. The total number of children of second-

ary school age (10–17 years) enrolled as a proportion of the total number of children of secondary school age.

Literacy indicators

Literacy (adult). The percentage of people aged 15 and above who can read and write a short, simple statement on everyday life. The survey did not actually do any testing to confirm respondent's ability to read and write.

Literacy (youth). The percentage of people aged 15–24 who can read and write a short, simple statement on everyday life. The survey did not actually do any testing to confirm respondent's ability to read and write.

Head of household indicators

Monogamous male-headed. Male-headed household having no more than one spouse.

Polygamous male-headed. Male-headed household with more than one spouse. However, differences exist in the way in polygamous households are defined. Wives do not have to live under the same roof.

Single male-headed. Male-headed household where the head is either divorced or has never been married.

De facto female-headed household

- without a resident male-head or where the husband is not present and the wife is the head by default and the main decision-maker in his absence;

- may include a household where the resident male head has lost most of his functions as the economic provider due to infirmity, inability to work, etc.

De jure female-headed single female-headed household, where the head has never been married, or is divorced or separated or widowed.

Household expenditure indicators

These indicators provide information on per capita expenditure in local currency (including the value of own-produced food consumed in the household) and the share of food in household expenditures.

Mean per capita expenditure, in local currency, is estimated as the weighted average per capita household expenditure. It includes both food (value of own-produced food and purchased) and non-food consumed in the household.

Food share in total expenditure. A weighted estimate of total per capita household expenditure allocated to food, including a valuation of own-produced food consumed by the household.

Household amenities indicators

Type of fuel for cooking includes firewood, gas and kerosene, charcoal, and electricity.

Access to safe sanitation refers to households equipped with a flush toilet or simple but protected pit latrine.

Access to improved safe water indicates the percentage of households with access to safe sources of safe drinking water.

Child survival indicators

Births assisted by trained staff include doctors, nurses, midwives and trained traditional birth attendants (TTBA). A trained traditional birth attendant (TTBA) is one who has undergone a course conducted by the modern healthcare sector.

One-year-olds immunization refers to children aged 12–23 months.

Anthropometrics indicators

Stunting refers to children 6–59 months of age who have height-for-age Z-scores below minus two standard deviations from the median of the reference population.

Wasting refers to children 6–59 months of age who have weight-for-height Z-scores below minus two standard deviations from the median of the reference population.

Underweight refers to children 6–59 months of age who have weight-for-age Z-scores below minus two standard deviations from the median of the reference population.

Employment indicators

Employment ratio includes only persons who are employed and the unemployed in the age categories 15–64. Excludes homemakers, retired, dependent, student and other.

Formal/informal sector

Formal private sector includes business units that are well organized, structured, and legally registered.

Employed by *informal sector* is anyone employed in a semi-organized unit; can be legally registered or not. Informal sector employment includes all a) own-account workers, b) unpaid family workers who work for 7+ hours per day, and c) employers and employees in small establishments (< 5 workers).

This bulletin has been prepared by Rose Mungai (AFTQK) and Xiao Ye (AFRCE) and cleared by the appropriate members of the Malawi country team.

How to interpret the Table of Key Indicators?

The indicators shown in this bulletin are presented by consumption (expenditure plus own produced consumption) quintiles. First, the survey data are used to calculate household consumption (consumption is used in favor of income because it is considered easier to measure).

This household consumption variable is then adjusted using regional price deflators so that the expenditure levels of urban households (who face different prices from rural households) can be compared with those of the rural households.

The adjusted household expenditure variable is then used to rank the households from poorest to richest, and split into five equal sized quintiles. (The table only shows figures for the top and bottom quintiles.)

For the purpose of this report, the poor are defined as the households in the lowest quintile (i.e., those households that contain the bottom 20 percent of the population). The non-poor are taken to be those in the top quintile. This “relative” concept of poverty should not be confused with an absolute concept based on the percentage of the population living below an absolute poverty line (such as a dollar a day). In addition to showing national quintiles, the table also shows urban and rural quintiles. In order to calculate these, the population is first divided into urban and rural households; each group is then ranked and split into quintiles as described above.

Contact

The World Bank, Africa Region
Operational Quality and Knowledge Services
Africa Household Survey Databank
MSN J5-502
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
USA

Internet

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/stats>
<http://www.worldbank.org/afr/poverty/databank>

E-mail

AFRDatabank@worldbank.org

