



GENDER IN SWEDD COUNTRIES

25 Years
for men

35 years
for women



SWEDD
(Sahel Women Empowerment & Demographic Dividend)

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Within context of social & economic research, men-women equality is regarded as essential for optimal economic development. In the developed countries, struggle against men-women inequality is almost entirely considered in all the public policy. However it is less considered in the underdeveloped countries, particularly in sub-Saharan countries of Africa where tradition and sociocultural believes are viewed as a limit for women autonomy and men-women equality adopted the different Governments. According the United Nations Development Program (UNDP 2016), 61% of African women are subjected to discrimination in the field of health and education. The gradual reduction in these facts is regarded as an economic challenge. In fact, it is now proved that this large number of unemployed women has a real economic cost and generates great economic and social lost.

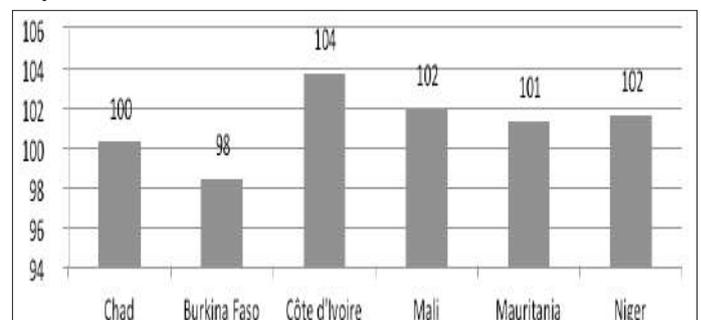
Thus, in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the SWEDD countries, the question of the empowerment of women and gender equality is taken into account by the main instruments of economic and social planning even if there is some disparities in levels of consideration of gender in SWEDD countries and the effectiveness of its application. Indeed, the area of SWEDD men are more represented in the management of public affairs. They mainly hold land and have better access to education and employment. However, an improvement is noted in the living conditions of women and gender, including disparities in maternal health and education level.

Consideration of the gender dimension in the public policy come within the dynamism of sustainable human development. It places men and women at the center of all the actions in consideration of their blooming and the improvement of their situation and politic, economic, social living conditions. Despite the conventions in considerations of gender equality ratified by a lot of countries in the world, the gender inequality is topical especially in the developing countries which remains a major obstacle to the social and economic development.

However since 1990, considerable improvement have been noted with the implementation of public policy focused on woman but gender equality is not still settled for girls and women are sometimes discriminated in the field of health, education, political representation and in the labour market.

The demographic context of SWEDD countries is marked by a male population (51%) slightly more important than female population (49%). The sex ratio report per SWEDD countries that shows the number of men for 100 women is given by the graph 1 below.

Graph 1 : Sex ratio in the SWEDD zone

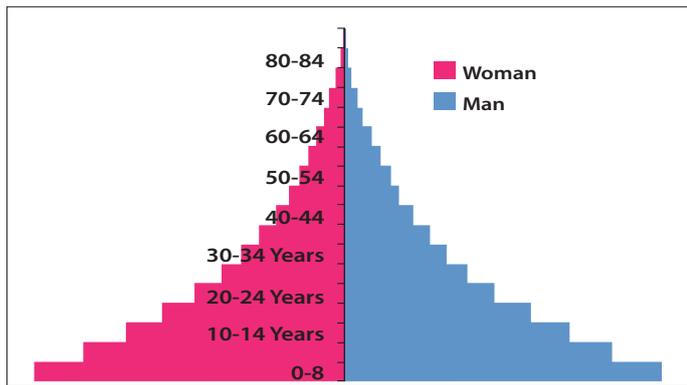


Source: CREG / CREFAT, from World Bank database

The SWEDD area has a pyramids-shaped diagram representing population by age groups very wide at the base, sign that the young age groups are most represented. In 2014, the population under 15 years old represented 43% of the whole population whereas, the proportion of the 65 years old population and more is only 3%. These statistics indicate that the majority of the population is composed of people from 15 to 64 years old. This shows the preponderance of the working age population, this constitute a high potential for the capture of the demographic dividend.



Graph 2 : Age Pyramid of the SWEDD zone, 2014



Source: Author, based on a calculation. UN Population

Cote d'Ivoire, the most populated country of the area, has a pyramid-shaped diagram representing population by age-groups similar to that of countries in demographic transition. It has a wide base and a regular and progressive narrowing as we are advancing in age. Thus, the children from 0 to 14 years old and young people from 15 to 34 years old respectively represent 41,8% and 35,5% of the entire population. So 77,3% of the whole population or a little more than 3 out of 4 people are less than 35 years old. The dependency ratio defined by the non-working population on working population is given for SWEDD countries by this chart.

Table 1: Dependency¹ ratio of SWEDD countries

PAYS	Rapport de dépendance
Burkina Faso	93
Côte d'Ivoire	84
Mali	100
Mauritania	77
Niger	113
Chad	102

Source: Author, based on a calculation. UN Population

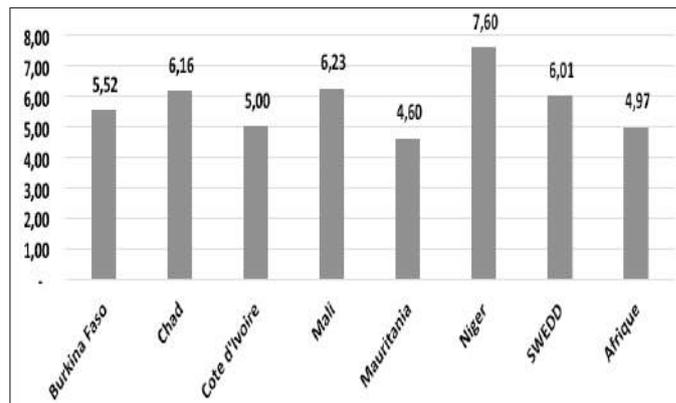
The dependency rate which indicates the number of people of non-working age for 100 people of working age (population aged 15 to 59 years old) is of 84 dependent people for 100 working people for Cote d'Ivoire, whereas it is of 113 dependent people for 100 working people in Niger.

Concerning the marriage rate, Africa is characterized by the precocity of marriages. According to different surveys of health and demography in the different SWEDD countries, women get married in a young age (17,8 years in Burkina, 18 years in Mali, 19,7 years in Cote d'Ivoire, 15,7 years in Niger, 10 years, and more in Mauritania, and 12 years and more in Thad).

The index of fertility among the women in the SWEDD countries is relatively high (6 children per woman). Indeed, in 2014, it is of 5,52 children in Burkina Faso, 6 children in Mali, 5 children in Cote d'Ivoire, 4,6 children in Mauritania, 6 children in Chad et 7,6 children in Niger. These rates are greater than the world average which is of 2 children per women and the average of Sub-Saharan Africa (4,97) except for Mauritania (4,60).

¹ Inactive population / Labor force

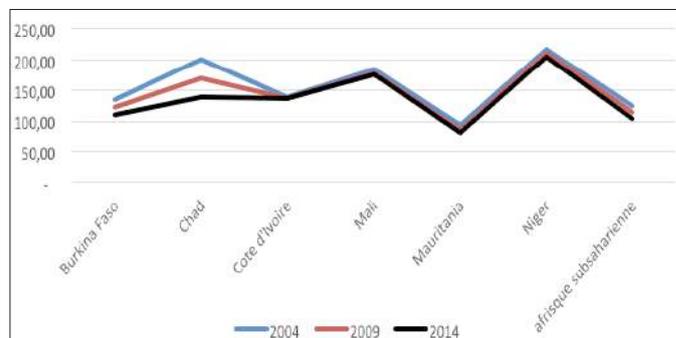
Graph 2 : Fertility index in the WEDD in 2014



Source: CREG /CREFAT, from World Bank database

It is important to the analysis of fertility by putting the focus on the Group of adolescents, i.e. young women aged 15 to 19 years because of its involvement in maternal mortality, and education. Given the importance of the subject, the SWEDD countries have developed social policies to tackle marriages and pregnancies and the implementation of strategies and health programs on reproduction (family planning and other contraceptive methods) to be in compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union guidelines.

Graph 3 : Evolution of the fertility rate among adolescents in SWEDD countries



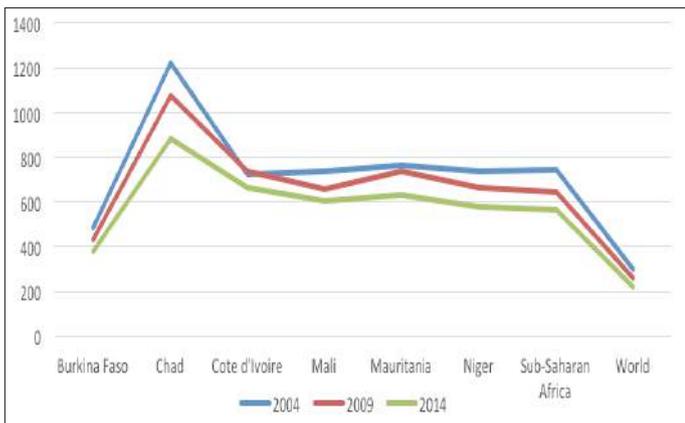
Source: CREG/CREFAT, from World Bank database

Maternal mortality is defined as being mortality due to pregnancy, a death related to pregnancy defined by the WHO as a death of a woman during the pregnancy or in 42 days time after the end of the pregnancy whatever the cause of the death (WHO, 2004).The maternal mortalities average in the world is of 221 death for one hundred thousand births in 2014. Generally, Sub-Saharan Africa (560 for one hundred thousand) and SWEDD countries especially are far behind. In fact, Chad in 2014 register the highest mortality rate of the area with a ratio of 881.

However we can notice that maternal mortality has dropped on the 2004-2014 period in all the SWEDD countries. This decreasing evolution indicate that these countries made a great effort to improve maternal health which must continue because maternal mortality still remains high.



Graph 4 : Evolution of maternal mortality rate



Source: CREG/CREFAT, from World Bank database

Women less educated than men in the SWEDD

Education constitute a priority sector for the development of a nation through a system of education of quality and a capacity to provide employment to well-trained and qualified citizens. This aspiration have been asserted in 1948 by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which has recognized the right to education and has proclaimed that elementary education must be free and mandatory, and that everybody must have access to higher education.

That's why the SWEDD countries have made great effort to improve some indicators, in particular, the annual percentage rate of schooling which rose, from 80,4% in 2001 to 91% in 2011 in Chad, from 76,1% in 2000 to 82% in 2013 in Niger and from 76,2% in 2009 to 91,2% in 2013 in Cote d'Ivoire. The gender parity index that give in 2011 in Chad, 10 boys for 7girls sent to school, in Mauritania, it goes from 0,74 to 1,02 between 2000 and 2011 and in Niger 10 boys for 8 girls sent to school.



Flickr 2017

The analysis of the overall level of education reveals significant gender disparities. Indeed, despite a significant improvement in the educational level of the population of the SWEDD countries, we see that women are less educated than men. In Burkina Faso, the proportion of women having received no instruction is significantly higher than men meaning 74% against 59% (EDSBF²- MICS IV, 2010), in Côte d'Ivoire, 53% of women 15 to 49 years and 34% of men in the same age group are uneducated and in Niger, 64% of young women 15 to 19 years old have no level of education in 2012 against 37% among men.

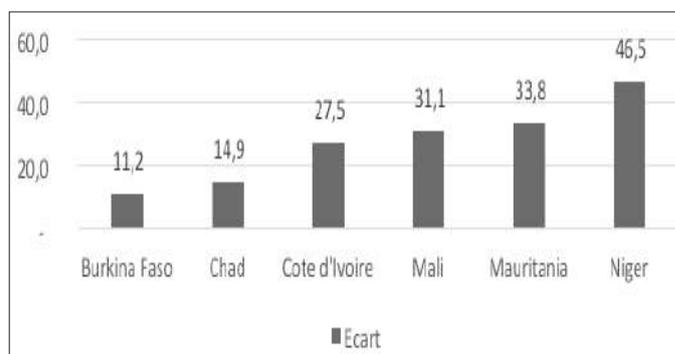
The proportion of women 15 to 49 years having received no instruction is significantly higher than that of men of the same age group (80% compared to 60%) and in Chad, 62% of women against 36% of men have no level of education over the period 2014-2015 (ED S - MICS, 2014-2015).

This situation brings the issue of girls' education and how to maintain them at school for the SWEDD area but also, the issue of a productive system of education which naturally goes through appropriateness between training and the labor market which can only materialize by the promotion of technical and professional training, the promotion of scientific subject as well, in the secondary education.

Unemployment rate much more significant among men than women

The analysis of the employment situation in the SWEDD countries indicates great disparities between men and women. This graph give the value of difference among the employment rate between the two genders.

Graph 5 : Gender in employment in different SWEDD countries



Source: CREG/CREFAT, World Bank database

Concerning the unemployment level, one can notice that the global tendency gives a rate of unemployment much more important among men than women except for Mali where the unemployed women population is more important than that of men.

² Demographic and Health Survey and Multiple Indicators 2010

Graph 6 : Unemployment rate by gender in SWEDD countries (in % of working population of each group)

Countries	2004		2014	
	Woman	Man	Woman	Man
Burkina Faso	2,0	3,5	2,3	3,9
Côte d'Ivoire	3,9	4,2	3,7	4,1
Mali	12,4	6,8	11,2	6,2
Mauritania	30,9	33,0	29,5	31,5
Niger	4,7	5,2	4,6	5,3
Chad	6,7	6,7	7,5	6,5

Source : WDI

Great disparities of the gender regarding the issues of poverty from one country to another

Poverty is for a household or a person not having resources to meet its basic needs. This poverty is also characterized by a lack of satisfaction in various areas of life such as education, health, housing, employment, among others. Overall, in the countries of SWEDD, the distribution of poverty, which is most important in households headed by men, can be explained, first of all, by the very low weight of female heads of household, but also by their status. Indeed, they are often widows or women emigrants and benefit from relatively significant transfers.

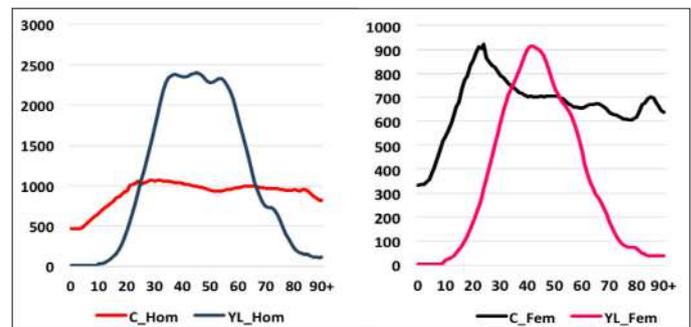
This overall situation is broken down for each country SWEDD. Indeed, the distribution of poverty in Burkina Faso shows positive discrimination to poverty in individuals whose head of household is a woman (30.4% of poor people) compared to individuals living in households headed by a man (41.0% of poor). Individuals whose head of household is a man, contribute mainly to the state of poverty with 93.8% compared to only 6.2% of contribution for individuals whose head of household is a woman (Continuous Multisectoral Survey (EMC) 2014). Similarly, in Côte d'Ivoire, poverty affects both households headed by a man (46.4%) than by a woman (45.9%) even if in Abidjan, households headed by women are a lot poorer (28.4%) than those directed by a man (21.1%). In addition, more than 81% of the poor live in households headed by a man (ENEV³, 2015).

In Mali, the analysis of the EMOP-2014 results reported the same gender disparity trend of poverty favoring women. Among individuals living in a household headed by a man, nearly half is poor (47.8%), while in households headed by women, the incidence is much lower (29%). In Niger, the poverty rate is higher in households whose head is a man

³ Survey on the standard of living of households in Côte d'Ivoire

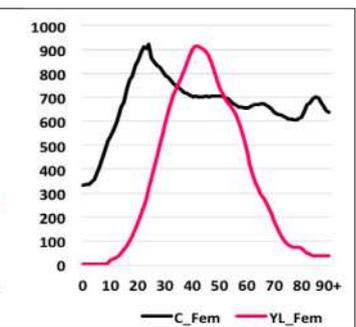
than in those whose head is a woman, or a difference of 8.6 percentage points of poverty for households headed by a man (Demographic and Health Survey and with Multiples Indicators, 2012). The NTA results allow to explain and analyze disparities related to gender in work, consumption, intergenerational transfers, deficits and dependence throughout the life cycle of individuals. The average profile of consumption and income for men and women is shown in the two graphs below.

Graph 7 : Average consumption and income profile for men



Source : CREG/CREFAT, 2016

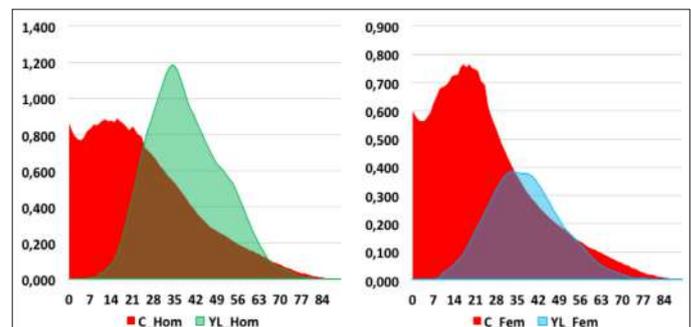
Graph 8 : Average consumption and income profile for women



Source : CREG/CREFAT, 2016

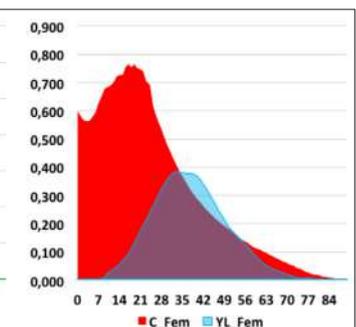
The analysis of the joint evolution of average income and average consumption highlights a number of disparities between men and women in terms of ages of exit from economic dependence on youth and the entry into old age economic dependence. This delay is undoubtedly caused by the difficult access of SWEDD women to the labour market, they are generally in the informal sector and self-employment.

Graph 9 : Aggregate income and consumption profile of men



Source : CREG/CREFAT, 2016

Graph 10 : Aggregate income and consumption profile of women



Source : CREG/CREFAT, 2016

Table 1 : Consumption and labor income average by gender in the SWEDD area in 2014

Old	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
0-25 years	735,4	618,6	216,8	85,6	518,6	533		
26-65 years	998,7	715,6	2050,6	665,9	-1051,9	49,8		
66 and more	933,2	646,5	421,6	99,6	511,6	546,8		
Total	2667,3	1980,7	2688,9	851,1	-21,7	1129,6		

Source : CREG/CREFAT, 2016



At the aggregate level, changes in aggregate consumption and total labor income follow the same trajectories as at the individual level. Thus, the overall consumption of women in the area (about 29 billion USD) is lower than that of men (37 billion USD). Similarly, men’s overall labor income far exceeds that of women, 2,689 billion USD against 851 billion USD only.

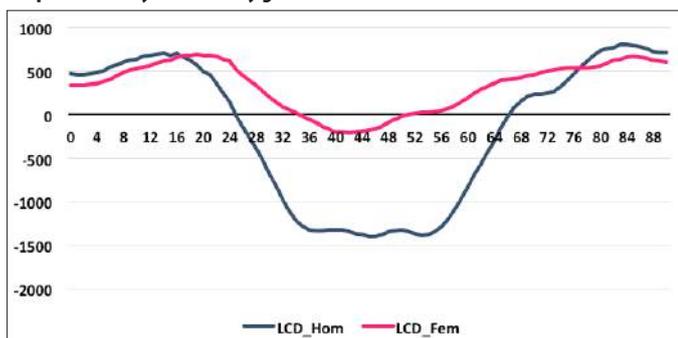
Table 2 : Consumption and labor income aggregated by gender in the SWEDD area in 2014

	Aggregate consumption (billion USD)		Aggregate income (billion USD)			
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
0-25 years	21,67	17,55	4,72	1,90	16,95	15,65
26-65 years	14,39	10,42	28,86	9,64	-14,47	0,78
66 and more	1,01	0,77	0,69	0,19	0,31	0,58
Total	37,07	28,74	34,28	11,73	2,79	17,01

Source: CREG/CREFAT, 2016

The joint evolution of labor income and consumption at the aggregate level shows that the gap for age groups between 0 and 25 years is \$ 17 billion for men versus \$ 16 billion for women. Similarly, people in the age group «66 years and over» have a deficit of 31 million USD for men and 58 million USD for women. These two age groups represent the group of economic dependents. Their deficit should be funded by the group of individuals in the adult age group (25 - 65 years). However, it is clear that only the adult male age group has a surplus of US \$ 14.47 billion. This surplus is insufficient to reduce the total deficit of dependent groups (youth and old age).

Graph 11 : Life cycle deficit by gender



Source: CREG/CREFAT, 2016

An analysis of the results of changes in average consumption and average labor income over the life of male and female individuals shows that each individual has a surplus. The remaining differences between men and women lie in the threshold ages from which the surplus is released. For every man in the SWEDD zone, the excess income over consumption is observed at the age of 25 versus 35 for women. Similarly, the entry into old-age dependence is earlier for women (51) than for men (66).

These disparities observed between men and women reflect a socio-economic reality that prevails in the SWEDD zone:

- Women, at both the individual and the aggregate level, belatedly entering (at the age of 35) into the surplus phase and emerging at an early age (age 50), which is below the normal age of retirement;
- The duration of the surplus phase in women is rather short (15 years) compared to that of men (40 years);
- Women are less involved in resolving the deficit created by youth and old age economic dependency groups.

In total, the analysis of gender disparities in SWEDD countries is that women are disadvantaged in participating in active life. This situation is would be due to a lack of qualifications and very marked cultural discrimination in the area.

Recommendations

- Put in place public policies to empower women to participate in economic growth and the capture of the demographic dividend in the countries concerned.
- Adopt gender-responsive budgeting
- Encourage the implementation of periodic time-use surveys.

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