



Chronic Poverty
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Food Poverty Dynamics in Burkina Faso

**Samuel T. Kaboré, Claude Wetta
and Francis M.P. Zida**

Presented by Andy McKay





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Burkina Faso

- West Africa: transition between W. African savannah and Sahel
- Very poor: GDP \$210 p.c.
- Predominantly agricultural economy
- Very low urbanisation





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Policy and economic environment

- PRSPs in 2000 and 2004
- Significant cross sectional analysis of poverty, no dynamics
- Wide exposure to shocks: natural, socio-political and economic



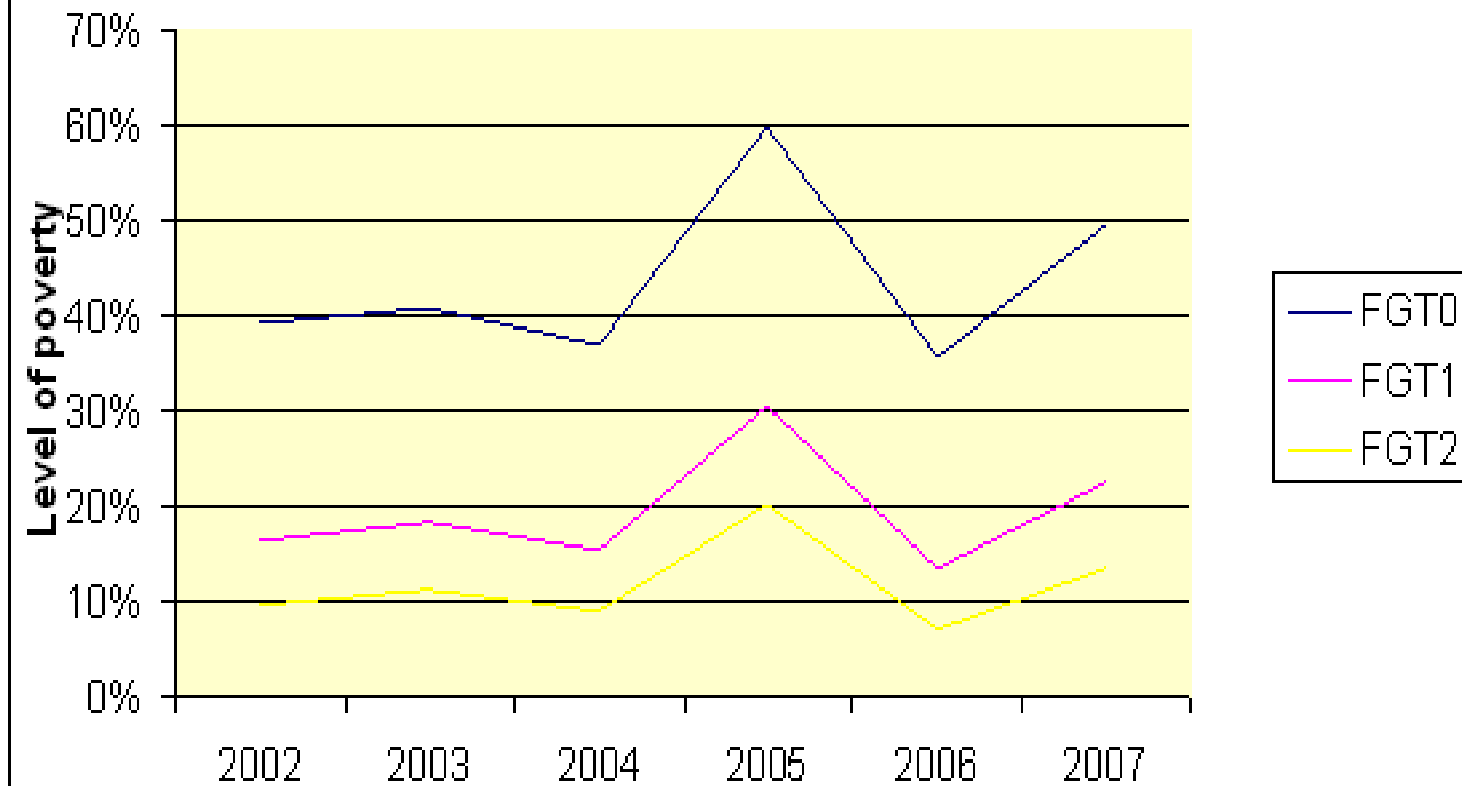


Analysis of food poverty

- Analysis based on permanent agricultural survey
 - Annual survey of same (representative) households, 2002 to 2007
 - Post harvest data on agricultural production, especially cereals (base of Burkinabè diet)
 - Plus household characteristics etc.
 - Compare household cereal production to poverty line of 190kg/person/year
 - Poverty analysis in terms of spells and components
 - Work in progress



Figure 1 : Food poverty dynamics between 2002 and 2007





Role of growth and redistribution in poverty changes

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2002-2007
Incidence of poverty						
change in poverty	0.017	-0.038	0.229	-0.243	0.139	0.104
Contribution of growth	75.9	52.8	90.2	99.2	34.7	-8.6
Contribution of redistribution	24.1	47.2	9.9	0.8	65.3	108.6
Severity of poverty						
change in poverty	0.015	-0.024	0.112	-0.129	0.063	0.037
Contribution of growth	25.7	18.6	64.6	69.7	19.5	-11.7
Contribution of redistribution	74.3	80.9	35.3	30.2	80.7	111.9



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Growth and redistribution (2)

- Over full period worsening inequality leads to poverty increase despite growth
- Inequality worsens with decline and improves with growth
- Growth important in big increases and decreases in incidence of poverty
- Redistribution more important for severity and often dominant





Poverty spells approach

- Focus on number of periods for which household is poor
- 20% never poor; 14% poor in five or six out of six years
- A lot of mobility in and out of poverty

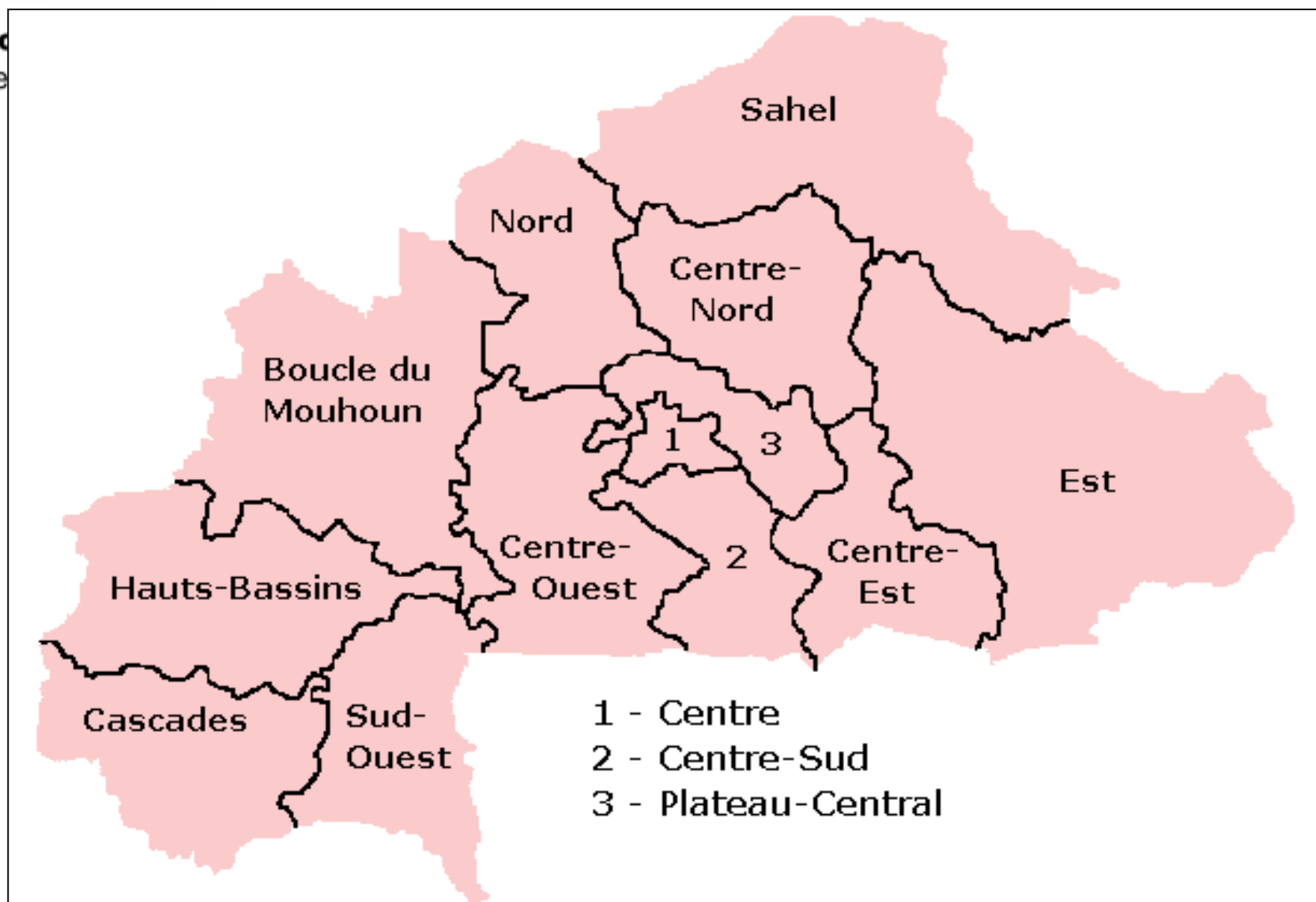
Table 1 : Number of times a household experienced poverty between 2002 and 2007

Number of poverty episodes	Percentage (%)
0 (never poor)	20.3
1	19.1
2	17.0
3	16.3
4	13.3
5	7.2
6 (always poor)	6.7
Total	100.0

Source : Calculations from EPA survey



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Regional distribution of poverty spells

Régions	1 or less episodes of poverty	4 or more episodes of poverty
Boucle du Mouhoun	70.0	5.1
Cascades	66.7	16.7
Centre	22.4	28.6
Centre Est	29.0	32.9
Centre Nord	23.4	43.9
Centre Sud	49.6	20.6
Centre Ouest	29.0	37.4
Est	31.8	21.8
Hauts bassins	74.2	6.9
Nord	15.3	45.8
Plateau Central	15.4	50.7
Sahel	16.9	31.6
Sud Ouest	66.1	13.0
Total	39.4	27.2



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Regional distribution (2)

- Significant geographic patterns: poverty lowest in west, highest in centre-north



Poverty components analysis

- Chronic poverty as poverty which remains when inter-temporal volatility removed
 - Transitory poverty as contribution of intertemporal variability
- 28.6% in chronic food poverty, transitory poverty = 21.0%
- Big variations in extent of transitory poverty over time (e.g. 30.3% in 2005, 12.8% in 2006)



Regional pattern of poverty components analysis

Regions	Never in poverty	In chronic poverty
Boucle du Mouhoun	41.1	5.1
Cascades	33.3	0.0
Centre	8.2	30.6
Centre Est	15.5	29.7
Centre Nord	6.5	38.3
Centre Sud	27.5	22.1
Centre Ouest	16.0	41.2
Est	6.4	19.1
Hauts bassins	47.5	4.9
Nord	4.4	46.8
Plateau Central	5.9	54.4
Sahel	2.9	27.2
Sud Ouest	36.5	13.0
Total	20.3	26.6

- 26.6% households in chronic poverty in 6 periods
- Low poverty again in west
- High poverty again in centre-north, also centre-west
- Chronically poor households smaller on average



Qualitative analysis

- Life history interviews with chronic, transitory and non-poor (survey) from different ecological zones
 - Non-poor: mechanisation, intensification of activities, wage work, livestock
 - Transitory poor see livestock as means of escape





Qualitative analysis (2)

- Chronic poor: “trust in God”
 - Content themselves that situation of others is worse
 - Small commerce but without conviction and materials
 - Inability to resist rainfall and other shocks
 - Can escape from poverty using “zai” agricultural technique if good rains





Conclusion

- Quite high levels of chronic poverty with strong regional patterns
 - Chronic poor highly vulnerable and techniques of escape very insecure
- Vulnerability important in growth-inequality story
- Strong policy message on agriculture:
 - Scope for agricultural growth, but severely limited by vulnerability
 - Fragility of production: role for government investment to facilitate access to equipment, fertiliser etc.



Conclusion (2)

- In developing the analysis:
 - Justification of using agricultural production data
 - Plausible poverty story
 - A couple of survey rounds have consumption and non-farm income data
 - Scope to integrate more strongly qualitative and quantitative techniques?



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