

# Poverty Alleviation in Burkina Faso: An Analytical Approach

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## Abstract

The major challenge, the country of Burkina Faso has to overcome is the reduction of poverty and the population vulnerability to alimentary crisis. The country was stated 181<sup>th</sup> among 187 by UNDP in 2011 and the growth rate is just about 5.5% in average on the period 2003-2009 while the poverty rate decreased steadily from 48.6% in 2003 to 46.7% in 2009. This decrease of poverty rate by 1.9 points is equivalent to a paradoxical augmentation of the number of poors by 28.5%.

This study emphasizes the determinants of poverty rate in Burkina Faso. We first use the results of the recent survey on households living conditions in a logit model to analyze the demographic and socio-economic factors that determine poverty, and clarify the contribution of each factor. After that, we examine the dynamic approach of poverty in this small country that is fighting poverty for several years without any relevant result, so that we are able to decree on the inefficiency of the government policies of poverty reduction and formulate a general critic on the first indicator of MDG1: in a given country, the decrease of poverty rate can be coupled with a rapid increase of the number of poor people.

The second relevant conclusion is that, the government of Burkina Faso needs to improve his policies in deep details, because the poor people are not associated to the growth creation process. In addition to that, we also need to define a new statistical framework to analyze dynamically the poverty phenomenon. As a result, we can focus on the growth rate of poor population, instead of the poverty rate which is just good for static analysis.

Key words: poverty rate, logit, demographic characteristics, socio-economic factors, Stata, Dev-info