Impact of Nutrition in Mortality, the Case of Antananarivo, Madagascar

Héléna Rajabaly, Université Catholique de Louvain

The last DHS survey shows that Madagascar is one of the countries in Africa with the most important level of malnutrition. In this context of economic crisis not only children but also adults have bad nutritional status. This article focuses on the impact of nutritional problems on health and mortality in the city of Antananarivo.

Data

We used data issued from death registration, which enable us to reconstitute death structure (age, sex and cause of death) of the entire population of the capital from 1976 to 2003. These data will then be matched at a district level with some socioeconomic characteristics in order to study impact of place of residence in mortality from nutritional causes.

Then we will focus on child morbidity, though the evolution of children malnutrition from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in 1992, 1997 and 2003-04 in Antananarivo. Bivariate association between child nutritional status (measured by breastfeeding, weight-for-age and height-for-age z-scores) and household factors (maternal education, household income, hygiene ...) will be analysed.

Results

Mortality data reveal that even in urban places socioeconomic level is so bad that the entire population is concerned by malnutrition. Children are particularly vulnerable during weaning process, with nutritional deficiencies and many infections. Moreover adults died from various diseases linked to nutrition like digestive and intestinal infectious diseases, or alcoholism.

Morbidity analysis shows that child nutritional status worsened since the beginning of the 1990's.

Because of socioeconomic evolution of the country mortality and morbidity transitions have slowed down in Antananarivo.