

Gambia

EquityTool: Released December 21, 2018

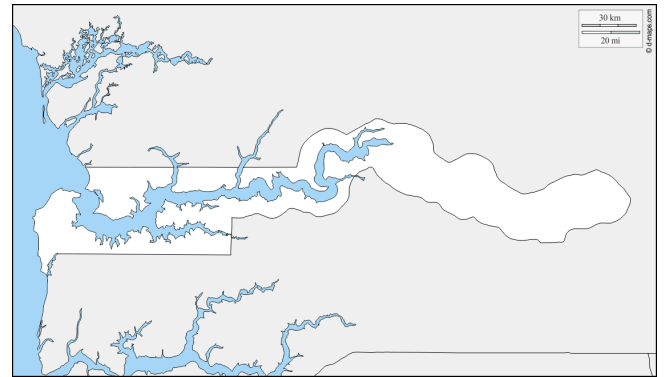
Source data: Gambia DHS 2013

of survey questions in original wealth index: 45

of variables in original index: 122

of survey questions in EquityTool: 16

of variables in EquityTool: 20



Questions:

	Question	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	DETERMINE IF THE RESPONDENT LIVES IN AN URBAN OR RURAL AREA	Urban	Rural	
Q1	Does your household have: a sofa?	Yes	No	
Q2	... a wardrobe?	Yes	No	
Q3	... a television?	Yes	No	
Q4	... a refrigerator?	Yes	No	
Q5	... a DVD / VCD player?	Yes	No	
Q6	... a satellite dish?	Yes	No	
Q7	Does any member of your household own: a bicycle?	Yes	No	
Q8	What is the main source of drinking water for members of your household?	Public tap / Standpipe	Piped to yard / plot	Other water source
Q9	What kind of toilet facility do members of your household usually use?	Flush to septic tank	Pit latrine without slab / Open pit	Other toilet type
Q10	What is the main material of the floor in your household?	Ceramic tile	Other floor material	

Q11	What is the main material of the exterior walls in your household?	Cement	Other wall material	
Q12	How many of the following animals does your household own: Cattle?	None	1 or more	
Q13	... Milk cows or bulls?	None	1 or more	
Q14	... Horses, donkeys, or mules?	None	1 to 4	5 or more
Q15	... Goats?	None	1 or more	
Q16	... Sheep?	None	1 or more	

Technical notes:

Separate urban and rural indices to create a national EquityTool

We were unable to achieve a reduced set of questions at a high level of agreement using our standard approach for the Gambia DHS 2013. Using a revised approach, detailed below, high agreement ($\kappa \geq 0.75$ for both urban and national indices) was achieved. Our standard simplification process is detailed [in this article](#). The national factor weights used in that approach come from an analysis of the national population and contain only those variables which are related to the construct of wealth in the same way in both rural and urban areas. The national factor weights are usually used in EquityTools to calculate national quintiles, as they reduce some known areas of respondent error in the survey.

However, to overcome the problem of low agreement using the standard simplification approach, we instead used factor weights from the rural and urban analyses, which select variables that related to wealth differently in urban and rural areas. For example, in an urban area, ownership of goats may be more strongly associated with being relatively poor than in rural areas. This is the case in Gambia. A short list of variables, common to both urban and rural areas, were iteratively selected to find those which result in high agreement ($\kappa \geq 0.75$) against the original wealth index quintiles for national and urban populations. The data used to identify important variables comes from the [factor weights released by ICF](#). For Gambia, the scores for urban and rural residents were combined into a national score using linear regressions, in a process similar to that used by ICF. Specifically, a score from the simplified index for urban residents (U_{score}) was regressed against the wealth index score variable created for the corrected full wealth index analysis (N_{score}), the same was done for rural residents (R_{score}), and the resulting coefficients are used to create a single national score (NatScore).

$$\text{Nscore} = b_1 \text{Uscore} + a_1$$



$$\text{Nscore} = b_2 \text{Rscore} + a_2$$

$$\text{NatScore} = b_1(\text{Uscore})(\text{Urban}) + a_1(\text{Urban}) + b_2(\text{Rscore})(\text{Rural}) + a_2(\text{Rural})$$

Where Urban=1 if respondent lives in an urban area and 0 if otherwise, and Rural =1 if respondent lives in a rural area and 0 if otherwise.

Respondents quintile assignments resulting from NatScore, the national wealth index score created from a simplified list of questions, were compared to the quintile assignments resulting from the original wealth index with 122 variables using the kappa statistic.

The questions in the simplified index which resulted from this process differ from EquityTools that are created using our standard approach. Notably, we need to know whether the respondent lives in an urban or rural area, thus an additional question has been added to the EquityTool for Gambia: 'Determine if the respondent lives in an urban or rural area'. In principle, the definition of 'urban' and 'rural' should match the definition used in the Gambia DHS 2013. Typically, this definition is defined by the country, not the developers of the DHS. In practice, the user needs to decide how to determine if each respondent lives in an urban or rural area. Three approaches are presented below, with some notes on each. Whichever method is chosen, it should be uniformly applied across all surveys conducted.

1. Ask the respondent directly – 'is your home in an urban or rural area?' This relies on the respondent's understanding of 'urban' and 'rural'.
2. Allow the data collector to determine whether the respondent lives in an urban or rural area, based on available guidance. This will work best if the interviews take place in or very near to people's homes, and if the data collectors can be trained on the same rules to determine if an area is urban or rural. One example of a rule is to classify 'peri-urban' areas on the edges of a city or town as urban. Another rule might be to classify an area as urban if it has a market center which operates daily.
3. If the interviews are taking place outside the home, then classify respondents based upon the location of the interview. For example, if interviews occur in health facilities, classify respondents as urban if the facilities are located in urban areas. Individuals may travel, so this method is also subject to error.



Level of agreement:

	National Population (n=6,217)	Urban only population (n=3,122)
% agreement	84.6%	84.2%
Kappa statistic	0.759	0.753

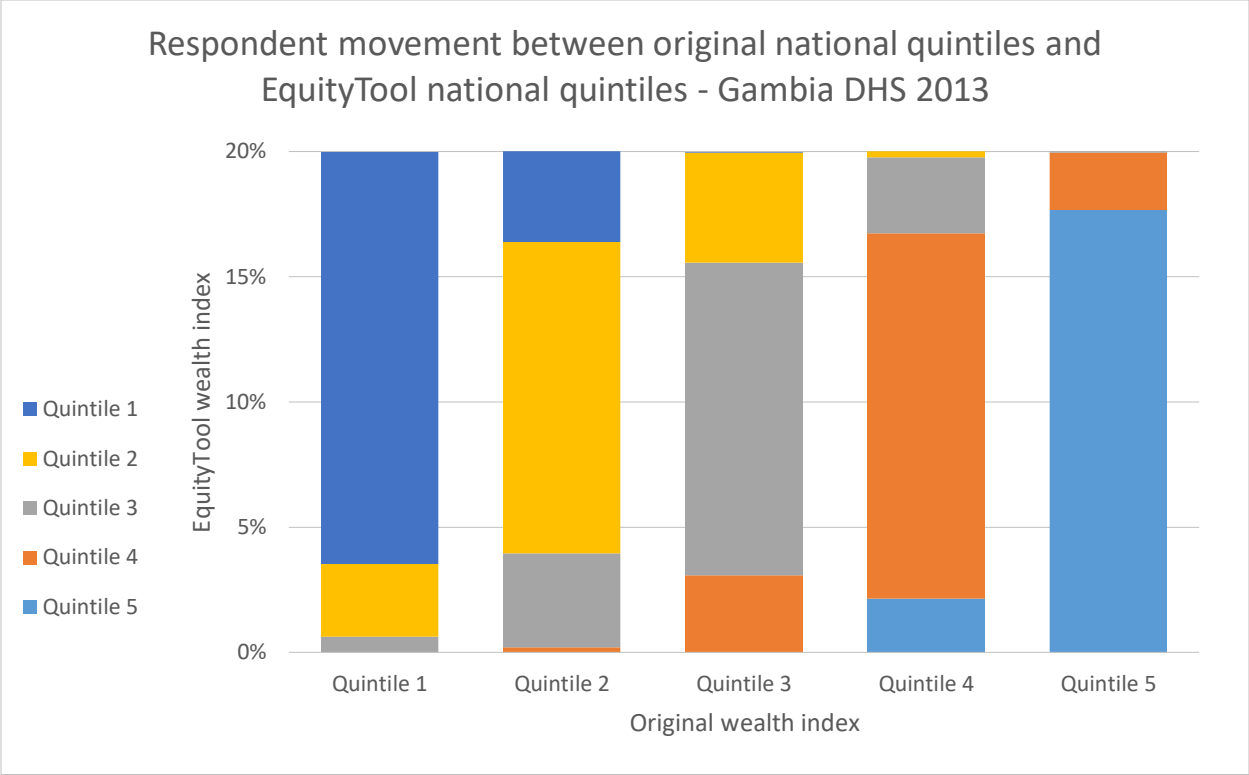
Respondents in the original dataset were divided into three groups for analysis – those in the 1st and 2nd quintiles (poorest 40%), those in the 3rd quintile, and those in the 4th and 5th quintiles (richest 40%). After calculating their wealth using the simplified index, they were again divided into the same three groups for analysis against the original data in the full DHS. Agreement between the original data and our simplified index is presented above.

What does this mean?

When shortening and simplifying the index to make it easier for programs to use to assess equity, it no longer matches the original index with 100% accuracy. At an aggregate level, this error is minimal, and this methodology was deemed acceptable for programmatic use by an expert panel. However, for any given individual, especially those already at a boundary between two quintiles, the quintile the EquityTool assigns them to may differ to their quintile according to the original DHS wealth index.

The graph below illustrates the difference between the EquityTool generated index and the full DHS wealth index. Among all of those people (20% of the population) originally identified as being in the poorest quintile, approximately 85% of them are still identified as being in the poorest quintile when we use the simplified index. However, approximately 15% of people are now classified as being in Quintile 2. From a practical standpoint, all of these people are relatively poor. Yet, it is worthwhile to understand that the simplified index of 16 questions produces results that are not identical to using all 45 questions in the original survey.



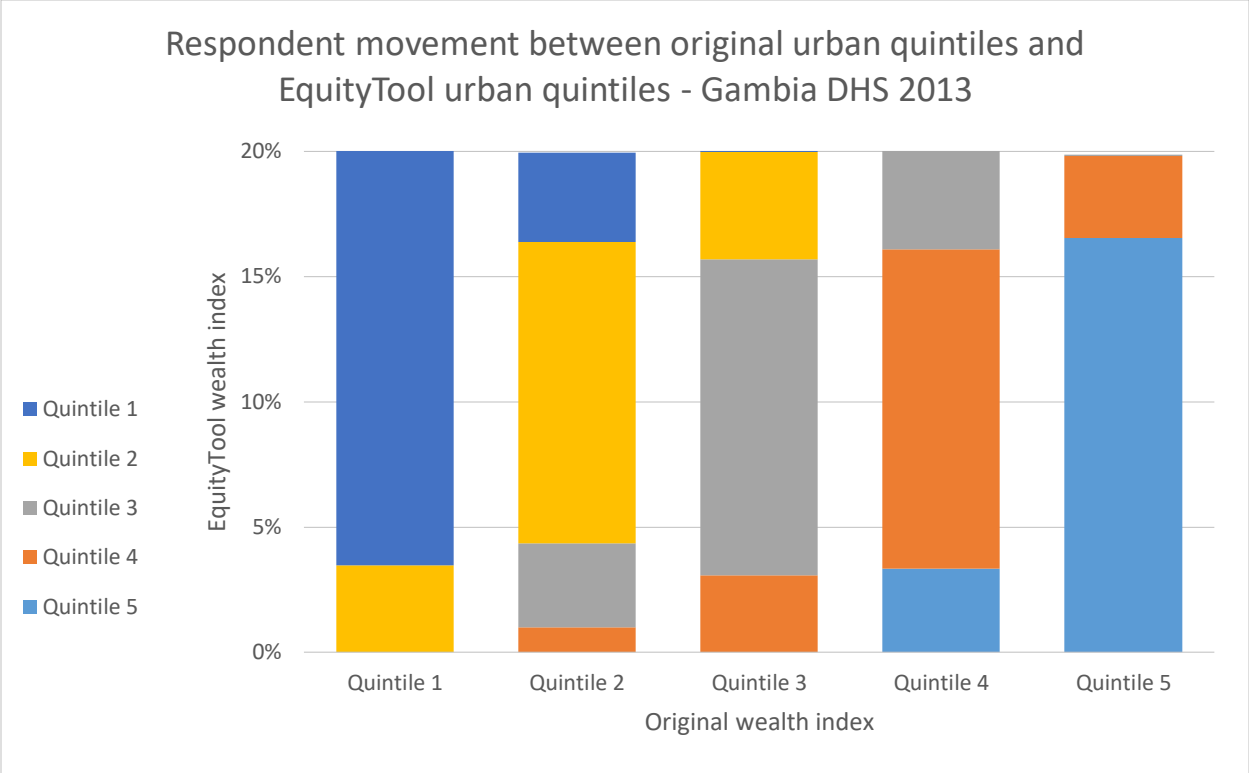


The following table provides the same information on the movement between national quintiles when using the EquityTool versus the original DHS wealth index:

		EquityTool National Quintiles					Total
		Quintile 1	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5	
Original DHS National Quintiles	Quintile 1	16.5%	2.9%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	20%
	Quintile 2	3.6%	12.4%	3.8%	0.2%	0.0%	20%
	Quintile 3	0.0%	4.4%	12.5%	3.1%	0.0%	20%
	Quintile 4	0.0%	0.2%	3.0%	14.6%	2.1%	20%
	Quintile 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	17.7%	20%
	Total	20.1%	19.9%	19.9%	20.2%	19.8%	100%

The following graph provides information on the movement between urban quintiles when using the EquityTool versus the original DHS wealth index:





The following table provides the same information on the movement between urban quintiles when using the EquityTool versus the original DHS wealth index:

		EquityTool Urban Quintiles					Total
		Quintile 1	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5	
Original DHS Urban Quintiles	Quintile 1	16.6%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20%
	Quintile 2	3.6%	12.0%	3.4%	1.0%	0.0%	20%
	Quintile 3	0.1%	4.3%	12.6%	3.1%	0.0%	20%
	Quintile 4	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	12.8%	3.3%	20%
	Quintile 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	16.5%	20%
	Total	20.2%	19.8%	20.0%	20.1%	19.9%	100%

Data interpretation considerations:

1. This tool provides information on relative wealth – ‘ranking’ respondents within the national or urban population. The most recent available data from the WorldBank



indicates that 10.1% of people in Gambia live below \$1.90/day¹. This information can be used to put relative wealth into context.

2. People who live in urban areas are more likely to be wealthy. In Gambia, 39.4% of people living in urban areas are in the richest national quintile, compared to only 0.1% of those living in rural areas².
 - a. If your population of interest is predominantly urban, we recommend you look at the urban results to understand how relatively wealthy or poor they are, in comparison to other urban dwellers.
 - b. If the people you interviewed using the EquityTool live in rural areas, or a mix of urban and rural areas, we recommend using the national results to understand how relatively wealthy or poor they are, in comparison to the whole country.
3. Some districts in Gambia are wealthier than others. It is important to understand the country context when interpreting your results.
4. In most cases, your population of interest is not expected to be equally distributed across the five wealth quintiles. For example, if your survey interviewed people exiting a shopping mall, you would probably expect most of them to be relatively wealthy.

Metrics for Management provides technical assistance services to those using the EquityTool, or wanting to collect data on the wealth of their program beneficiaries. Please contact support@equitytool.org and we will assist you.

¹ From povertydata.worldbank.org, reporting Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day at 2011 international prices.

² From the Gambia DHS 2013 dataset household recode, available at <http://dhsprogram.com/>

