Extended Abstract:

Title: Fertility transition in Kenya: Why has the stall persisted?
Kenya is one of the countries that has experienced a stall in fertility or reversal in fertility

since late 1990s. A considerable number of studies have attempted to explain these trends.

Bongaarts' study (2006) on the causes of stalling fertility transitions in developing countries

included Kenya in the analysis. Similarly,Westoff and Cross (2006) provided a detailed

analysis of the stall in Kenya between 1998 a Shapiro and Gebreselassie (2007) documented

a stall in three mid-transition countries (Ghana, Kenya and Cameroon) and in five other

countries (Guinea, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania). However, few detailed

studies of the reasons for these stalls have been published so far (Bongaarts, 2006; Garenne,

2007; Moultrie et al., 2008; Shapiro and Gebreselassie, 2007; Westoff and Cross, 2006). This

study is an attempt to contribute to studies that have tried to explain the reasons for the stall

in Kenya's fertility transition by examining trends in fertility by wealth quintiles and their

proximate determinants.

Study Objectives
- To demonstrate the extent to which wealth quintiles have influenced the reversals in fertility in Kenya.

- To determine the potential role of the proximate determinants in explaining the contribution of wealth quintiles on patterns of fertility in Kenya since late 1990s.

- The study question is: What is the contribution of each of the proximate determinants to the variations in fertility by wealth quintiles in Kenya?

The data for the study are derived from the 1998, 2003, 1nd 2008/9 Kenya Demographic and

Health Surveys (KDHS) and Bongaarts proximate determinants model is used in estimating

fertility inhibition of the various indices.

Results

Preliminary results indicate that there has been a decline in fertility across the wealth

quintiles and across surveys in Kenya. The decline has however been faster among the

second, middle, fourth and highest quintiles. This can be observed in figure 1 below. It can also be observed that apart from the fourth and highest quintiles, there was an increase in fertility in 2003 among the lowest, second and middle quintiles.
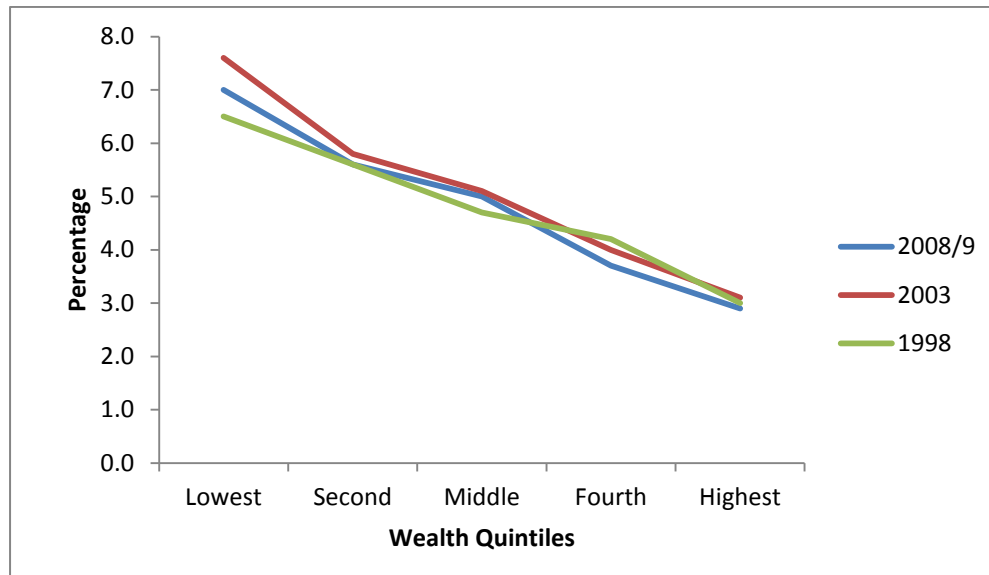

Figure 1: Total Fertility Rates by Wealth Quintile Kenya, 1998-2008/9 KDHS

Table 1 below presents the effects of proximate determinants of fertility in Kenya by wealth quintiles. The results indicate that across all the surveys, postpartum insusceptibility and being in union were the main proximate determinants that inhibited fertility among the lowest quintile and also for the second quintile in the 1998 and 2003 surveys. The quintiles with lower fertility namely middle, fourth and highest, the main proximate determinants that inhibited fertility were mainly use of contraceptives and being in union.

Table 1: Effects of Proximate determinants on Fertility in Kenya, 1998-2008/9

Wealth Quintiles	Proximate Determinants of Fertility, Kenya 1998-2008/9														
	1998					2003					2008/9				
	Cm	Ci	Ca	Cs	CC	Cm	Ci	Ca	Cs	CC	Cm	Ci	Ca	Cs	CC
Lowest	0.61	0.60	0.99	1.00	0.82	0.74	0.60	0.99	0.98	0.83	0.67	0.64	0.99	1.02	0.80
Second	0.64	0.63	0.99	0.99	0.73	0.62	0.69	0.99	1.01	0.69	0.61	0.67	0.99	1.03	0.60
Middle	0.65	0.66	0.99	1.00	0.63	0.61	0.68	0.99	1.01	0.59	0.60	0.70	0.99	1.05	0.51
Fourth	0.62	0.75	0.99	1.03	0.54	0.57	0.66	0.99	1.00	0.51	0.59	0.72	0.98	1.03	0.46
Highest	0.55	0.83	0.98	1.01	0.43	0.52	0.77	0.98	1.00	0.50	0.55	0.81	0.98	1.01	0.49

Programmatic interventions should focus on women from the lowest and second quintiles households if the stall or reversal in fertility in Kenya is to be realized..