2026 DINA UPDATE FOR COUNTRIES OF THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGION

ROMAINE LOUBES
ANNE-SOPHIE ROBILLIARD

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WORLD INEQUALITY LAB

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Technical Note

Romaine Loubes, Anne-Sophie Robilliard

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This note describes the construction of the WID pre-tax national inequality series for the 49 countries of Sub-Saharan African region.

Method

The starting point is the consumption inequality data from the World Bank's Poverty and Inequality Platform (PIP) provided at the percentile level. As of September 2026, the PIP database for Sub-Saharan Africa included data for 47 countries and a total of 242 points from nationally representative household surveys (World Bank, 2026). Information on the distribution of consumption is deemed to serve as a more reliable proxy for permanent income in economies characterized by widespread agrarian self-employment. Consequently, it provides a more accurate representation of income inequality in such contexts.

To construct year–country measures of inequality in pre-tax national income, we apply 4 transformations to these consumption-based indicators.

1. From consumption to income profiles.

Following the methodology outlined in Chancel et al. (2023), we adjust the consumption measures to derive income distributions, relying on estimated consumption–income profiles.

2. From post-tax to corrected pre-tax disposable income.

Household surveys tend to underrepresent top incomes and typically report income net of taxes. To address both limitations, we employ information from countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where survey and tax data are jointly available (notably Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa), and implement the correction procedure proposed by Blanchet, Flores, and Morgan (2022) to transform post-tax survey data into corrected pre-tax income estimates.

3. From disposable to national income.

We next extend our estimates from disposable income to national income by incorporating additional components, most notably capital income—including taxes on production and retained earnings. Given the limited availability of such data in African countries, we adopt a conservative adjustment strategy: the residual share of national income is distributed proportionally to individual income, assuming equal rates across the population.

4. From tabulations to the full distribution.

Finally, to recover continuous income distributions from the available percentile tabulations, we employ a non-parametric interpolation method that generates smooth and realistic generalized Pareto curves, following Blanchet, Fournier, and Piketty (2022).

Figure 1 illustrates the sequence of methodological steps applied to countries for which we rely on PIP data.

Figure 1: From PIP to DINA

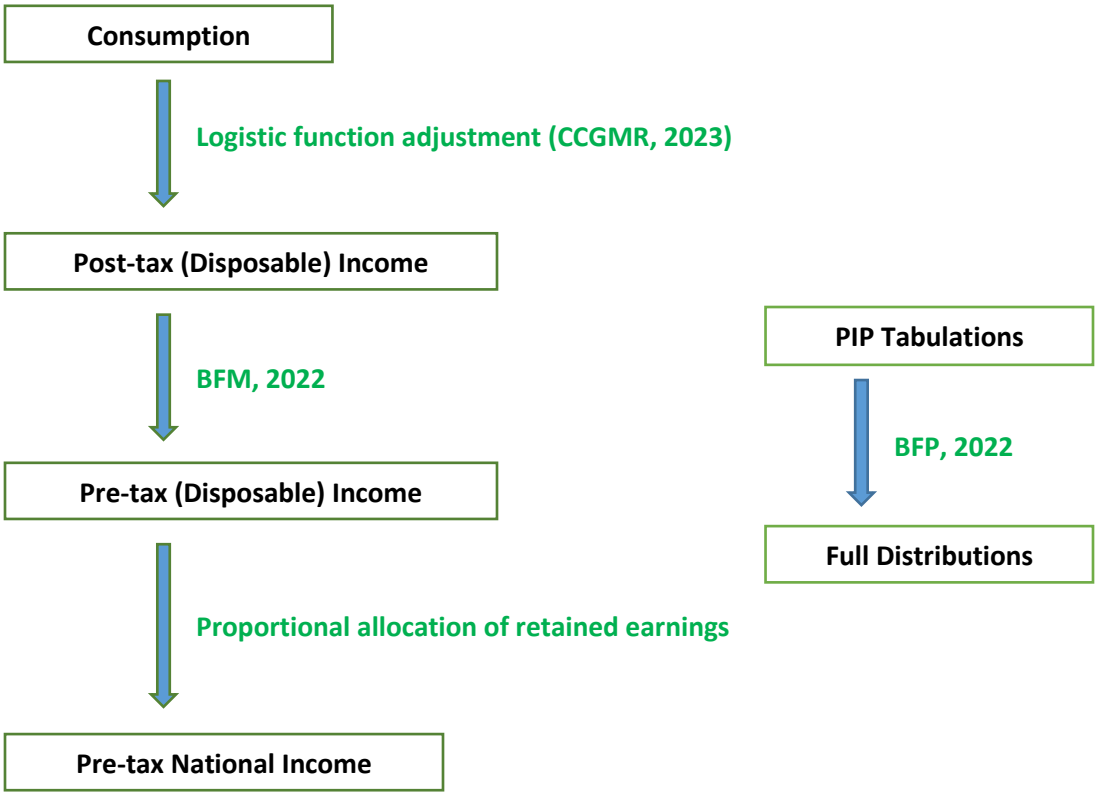


Table A in the Appendix provides the most recent datapoints for each country, as well as the additions relative to the previous DINA.

There are 2 countries for which there is no data: Somalia and Eritrea. For these countries, we follow the standard WIL procedure[1] and impute the distribution of national income from the distribution in other countries from the subregion:

- Eritrea <= Ethiopian inequality
- Somalia <= Eastern African inequality

[1] See Chancel, L., Flores, I., Moshrif, R., Nievas, G., Piketty, T. (2025). p.171 https://wid.world/document/distributional-national-accounts-dina-guidelines-2025-methods-and-concepts-used-in-the-world-inequality-database/

Outlook

Work is underway towards integrating harmonized household survey data on 8 West African countries (Robilliard, 2025), and efforts to secure fiscal data are underway in Senegal, Namibia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

References

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A. Survey data points for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

Country	Number of survey points	First year	Last year
Angola	3	2000	2018
Benin	5	2003	2021
Botswana	5	1985	2015
Burkina Faso	7	1994	2021
Burundi	5	1992	2020
Cabo Verde	3	2001	2015
Cameroon	5	1996	2021
Central African Republic	3	1992	2021
Chad	4	2003	2022
Comoros	**4**	2004	**2024**
Congo	2	2005	2011
Cote d'Ivoire	12	1985	2021
DR Congo	3	2004	2020
Djibouti	4	2002	2017
Equatorial Guinea	1	2022	2022
Ethiopia	6	1995	2021
Eritrea	0		
Gabon	2	2005	2017
Gambia	5	1998	2020
Ghana	7	1987	2016
Guinea	6	1991	2018
Guinea-Bissau	6	1991	2021
Kenya	8	1992	2022
Lesotho	4	1986	2017
Liberia	3	2007	2016
Madagascar	9	1980	2021
Malawi	5	1997	2019
Mali	6	1994	2021
Mauritania	8	1987	2019
Mauritius	3	2006	2017
Mozambique	6	1996	2022
Namibia	4	1993	2015
Niger	8	1992	2021
Nigeria	9	1985	2022
Rwanda	6	2000	2023
Sao Tome and Principe	3	2000	2017
Senegal	7	1991	2021
Seychelles	4	1999	2018
Sierra Leone	3	2003	2018

Somalia	0		
South Africa	**7**	1993	**2022**
South Sudan	2	2009	2016
Sudan	2	2009	2014
Swaziland	4	1994	2016
Tanzania	5	1991	2018
Togo	5	2006	2021
Uganda	10	1989	2023
Zambia	10	1991	2022
Zimbabwe	3	2011	2019
Total	**239**	**1980**	**2023**

Note: Bold indicates a new point compared to the previous update.