

**Robustness of the method of the cost of basic needs in the estimation of poverty:
Simulations based on the Survey on Burkinabè households living conditions.**

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Abstract

We examine the robustness of the “cost of basic needs method” as it’s applied by several developing countries in the estimation of poverty. The technical choices that have to be made in the elaboration of the poverty line, using this method, namely the composition of the food basket and the daily caloric needs were the subject of our simulations. These simulations were made on the basis of the Burkinabé survey on households living conditions in order to test the sensibility of the line of poverty to the choices made by some countries. Our results strongly support the view that the technical choices (often made without enough rigorous) significantly influence the poverty line. These findings suggest the needs to base technical choices on scientific views in the measurement of poverty, a multidisciplinary approach. Such a process is essential to respect the principle of impartiality, which is one of the fundamental principles of official statistics.