

**EMERGENCE OF URBAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN RURAL AREAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TORI-BOSSITO**

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<https://doi.org/10.35410/IJAEB.2023.5842>

**ABSTRACT**

The municipality of Tori-Bossito having affected socio-economic activities in rural areas over the past ten years. From an economic point of view, rurality is structured by so-called agricultural activities. Agriculture in the broad sense has shown a good capacity for adaptation and resistance to the opening up of new economic activities and an ever-growing population. The objective of the study was to analyze the motives for the creation of economic enterprises in rural areas and the typology of activities leading to revitalization and economic development in the study area. The methodological approach used is based on the collection of data, their processing and the analysis of the results. Documentary research and field surveys are the methods used to collect data from the 240 households. The questionnaire, interview guides and a digital camera are the tools and materials used to do this. The analysis of the results reveals that the population of the municipality of Tori-Bossito increased from 37,167 inhabitants in 1992 to 44,569 inhabitants in 2002 and 57,632 inhabitants in 2013. The demographic and spatial dynamics of the municipality is due to the movements migration and political-administrative and social-economic factors. The branch of activity "agriculture, livestock, fishing and hunting" dominates at 51.9%. The criterion of belonging to the land motivated 40% of the creators of economic activities in the Commune of Tori-Bossito. Preferences for the nature of urban activities relate to 54.3% for catering, 55.9% for the education sector, against 33.7% for the promotion of private health centers, 52.9% for super markets. These activities mobilized 5.25% of the active population.

**Keywords:** Urban Economic Activities, Urban Environment, Rural Environment, Emergence Of Economic Activities, Tori-bossito.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The relationship between cities and rural areas has been transformed in recent years (A. Hutter, et al., 2006, p.56). In ancient civilizations, these relationships were determined by the power of cities and the need to protect peasants in order to guarantee food supplies (S. Côté, 1996, p.529; A. Hutter, et al., 2006, p.56). In West African countries in the 1950s, the proportion of rural populations varied between 95% and 99% of the total population. However, Nigeria and Senegal had 89% and 79% respectively during the same reference period (M. Lattre-Gasquet, 2021, p.5). Today, it is the availability and reciprocal exchange of varied resources that characterizes the coexistence of town and country. Worldwide, 50% of the total population live in cities (UN, 2008), quoted by F. Lançon, et al., (2020, p. 45). The urban share of the world's total population

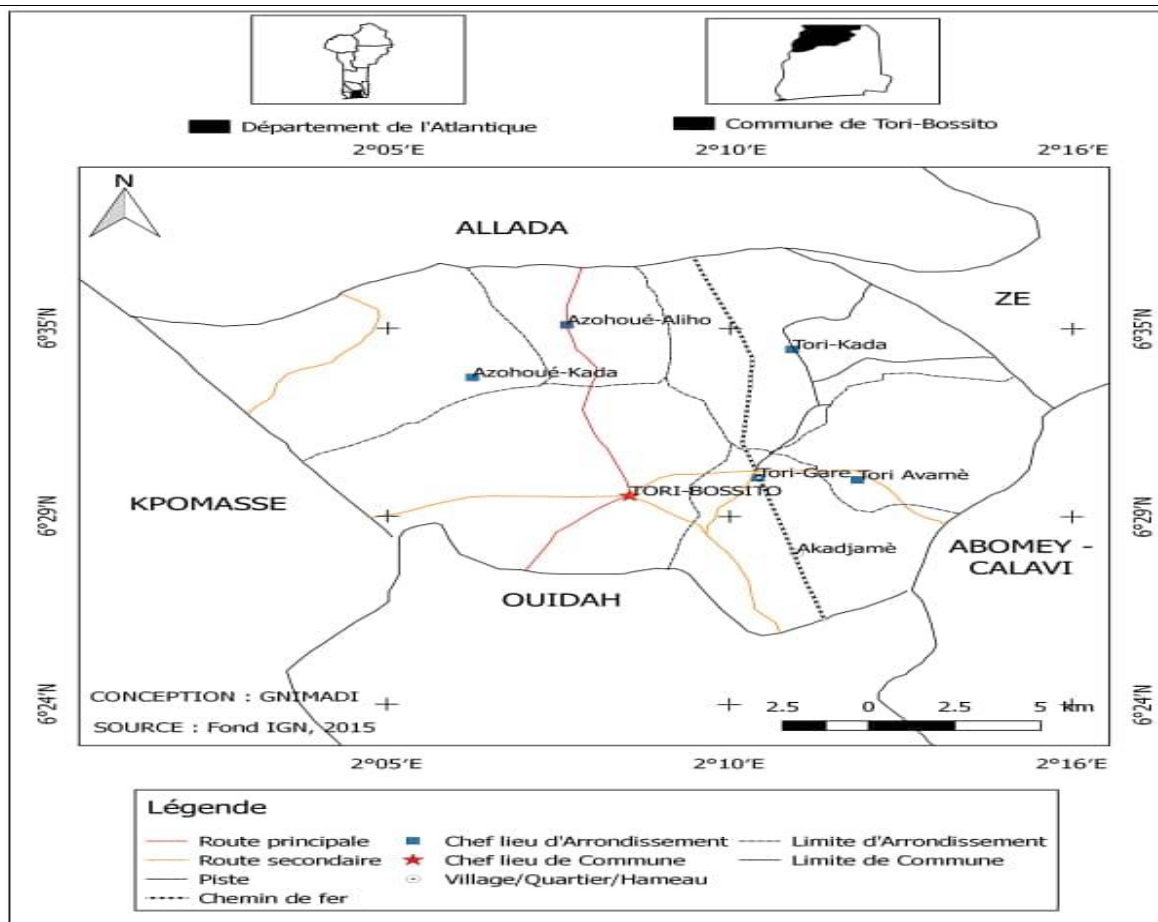
was below 50% in Asia and Africa, but had reached 79% in South America and 82% in North America (F. Lançon et al., 2020, p. 46). In developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, with their predominantly rural populations, the percentage of the urban population in relation to the total population is growing most rapidly (UNFPA, 2007, p. 63). Urban development in sub-Saharan Africa is proceeding at an alarming rate, as cities are perceived as places of opportunity and social success (A. K. Biakouye, 2014, p.263). The strongest urban population growth was recorded in the 50s and 60s, with an average annual rate of around 2.5%. The highest rates concern African countries, with a forecast rate of 4% (UN-HABITAT, 2015, p.78).

In the 1950s, Benin was one of those countries where the proportion of the rural population was almost equal to that of the urban population (49% and 51%), with a density varying between 18 and 33 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> (M.Lattre-Gasquet, 2021, p.5). Benin has joined the population growth dynamic experienced by Sub-Saharan African countries (R. HOUESSE, 2023, p.22). Its population rose from 2.16 million in 1961 to over 10 million in 2013, more than 5 times the population in the 1960s (Bidou et al., 2018) cited by R. HOUESSE, (2023, p. 23). On a national scale, the urban population has undergone profound change, rising from 27% in 1979 to over 44% of the total population in 2013. This mutation has been accompanied by a high population concentration in Benin's coastal regions (R. HOUESSE, 2023, p. 29). Rural populations in search of well-being have been drained by the economic activities developing in the metropolitan city of Cotonou (C. C. GNIMADI et al, 2014, p. 12). The population growth of this city from 327595 inhabitants in 1979 to 678 874 inhabitants in 2013, i.e. 2.07 times, can be explained by the concentration of all Benin's economic potential (Toffi, 2008), cited by C. C. GNIMADI et al, (2014, p.12). Migrants in search of a better life leave their territories or when the opportunities offered by the immediate environment no longer meet their aspirations (JEUDA, 2004) quoted by L. AGODO, 2009, p1). With demographic growth, rural areas are being settled and revitalized (Campion, 1989; Bryden, et al., 2000; Gaigné et al.,2005; Homes et al., 2003, and Wojan, 2000) cited by (C. Gaigné et al., (2008, p.102). The aim of the study was to analyze the motives behind the creation of economic enterprises in rural areas and the typology of activities driving the revitalization and socio-economic development of the Commune of Tori-Bossito.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1-Presentation of the study area**

Located in the southern part of the Atlantic department, the commune of Tori-Bossito covers an area of 328 km<sup>2</sup>, or 10% of the total area of the Atlantic department. The Commune of Tori-Bossito lies between 6° 27' and 6° 33' north latitude and 2°08' and 2°11' east longitude. It is bordered to the north by the commune of Allada, to the south by the commune of Ouidah, to the east by the communes of Abomey-Calavi and Zè, and to the west by the commune of Kpomassè (Figure 1).



The climate is sub-equatorial with contrasting seasons, with two wet seasons of four months (March to July) of high rainfall and two months (September to November) of low rainfall. These two rainy seasons contrast with two dry seasons of four months (November to March) for the major dry season and two months (July to mid-August) for the minor dry season (P. CARNEVALE, et al, 1984), cited by D. F. H.CODJIA et al, 2017, p.321). The commune's hydrographic network is unsupplied and is made up of swamps that in winter turn into bodies of water. These swamps have their source in Aoutè (Commune d'Allada) and cross the arrondissements of Avamè, Tori-Cada, Tori-Gare and Tori-Bossito (PDC, 2005, p. 19). The commune crosses part of the Lama depression, which distinguishes four zones: (i) a plateau zone to the north, west and center, (ii) a valley zone to the east, (iii) a depression zone to the south, and (iv) a marshy zone that crosses the arrondissements of Avamè, Tori-Cada and around Gbétaga. Geologically, the northern part of Tori-Bssito lies on Cretaceous sandstone and the southern part in a depression on clay sediment. In varying proportions, the soil consists of an organic fraction that supports vegetation. Four types of soil can be distinguished: (i) ferralitic soils in the north, (ii) hydromorphic soils in the east and west, (iii) vertisols in the south, and tropical ferruginous soils in the west. Vegetation is shrubby and sparse. High population density has contributed to the accelerated degradation of the vegetation cover in the Commune of Tori-Bossito. The geographical and administrative location of the Commune of Tori-Bossito, and its

proximity to other communes in the Atlantic department, have favored its demographic dynamics and the emergence of urban economic activities.

## **1.2 Data collection and processing**

### **1.2.1. Data collection**

**This includes documentary research and fieldwork.**

#### **□ Types of data collected**

Demographic data were collected at the Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSTATD), and were used to assess population trends from 1979 to 2013, and to produce figures. Qualitative data from socio-anthropological investigations were used to analyze people's perceptions of the emergence of new urban economic activities in rural areas.

#### **- Documentary research**

This consisted in identifying and consulting relevant works (books, theses, dissertations, reports, reviews, etc.). Other information was gathered in the field.

#### **- Field surveys**

During this phase, tools and techniques were used and sampling was carried out.

### **1.2.2. Data collection techniques and tools**

Data collection techniques such as direct observation and interviews were used. Direct observation enabled us to observe population growth and the emergence of new urban economic activities. Several tools were used. Interviews were conducted using an interview guide. These interviews provided information on the diversity of urban economic activities in rural areas. The questionnaires were addressed to a population made up of households, craftsmen and shopkeepers. A digital camera was used to take photos to illustrate the work.

#### **- The sample**

The sample used for the study was a purposive one, based on the population of the arrondissements of the Commune of Tori-Bossito: Avamè, Azohouè-Aliho, Azohouè-Cada, Tori-Bossito, Tori-Cada and Tori-Gare. The selection criteria for the households surveyed focused on the sector of activity based on the valorization of a rural or local characteristic (representative of the wood processing sectors, of (e.g. pineapple, catering, accommodation, health, information and communication technologies). The head of household was either a company manager or an employee. The selection of respondents was based on a probabilistic approach. The sample size was determined using the Schwartz (1995) method.

$$N = Z\alpha^2 * P Q / d^2 \quad (2)$$

With :

N= sample size per district

Z $\alpha$  = deviation set at 1.96 corresponding to a confidence level of 95%.

P = Population of the arrondissement / total population of the Commune of Tori-Bossito

Q = 1 - P

d = margin of error equal to 5%.

**Table I: Distribution of the number of households surveyed.**

Districts	Population size in 2013	Sample size	Sample rate (%)
Avame	5251	20	10
Azohouè-Aliho	3915	17	8,5
Azohouè-Cada	8543	22	11
Tori-Bossito	15729	65	30
Tori-Cada	9250	31	15,5
Tori-Gare	14844	55	25
Total	57632	210	100

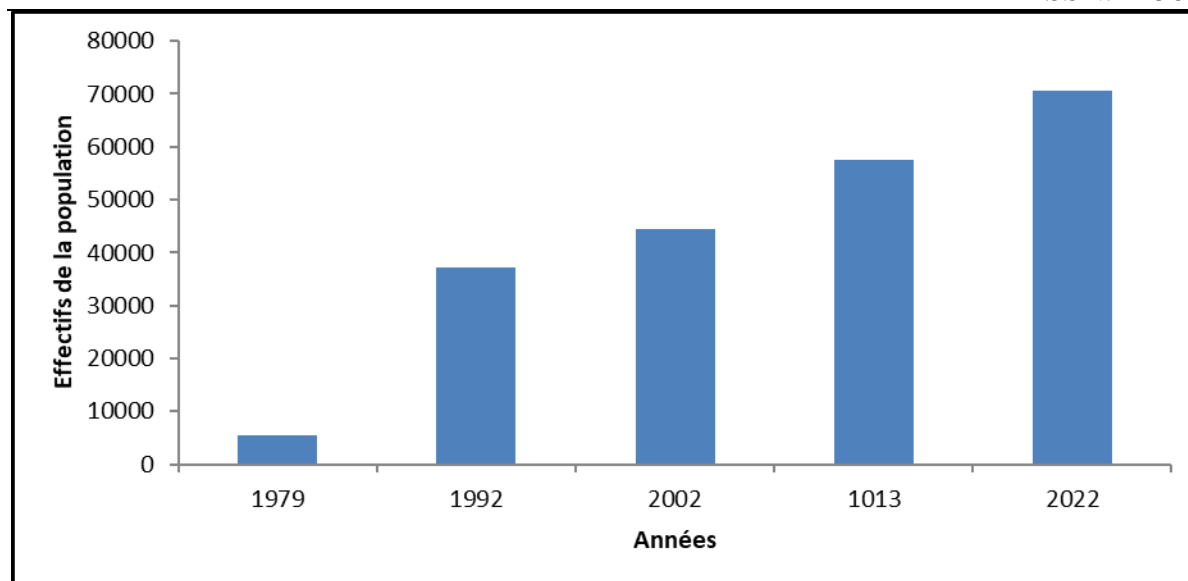
A total of 210 heads of household were selected for the survey. To these heads of household, 15 craftsmen and 15 shopkeepers were added. The data collected during the documentary research and field surveys were processed and the results analyzed.

### **1.2.3. Data processing and results analysis**

Data processing involved manual tabulation of questionnaire responses, followed by the actual processing. Data processing was carried out using microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheets to produce tables and figures. Arc-view 3.2 was used for cartographic processing. The map was produced from IGN topographic base maps. The analysis of the results was based on the cross-referencing and harmonization of research data.

## **2. RESULTS**

### **2.1. Demographic dynamics: a determining factor in the creation of urban economic activities in rural areas**

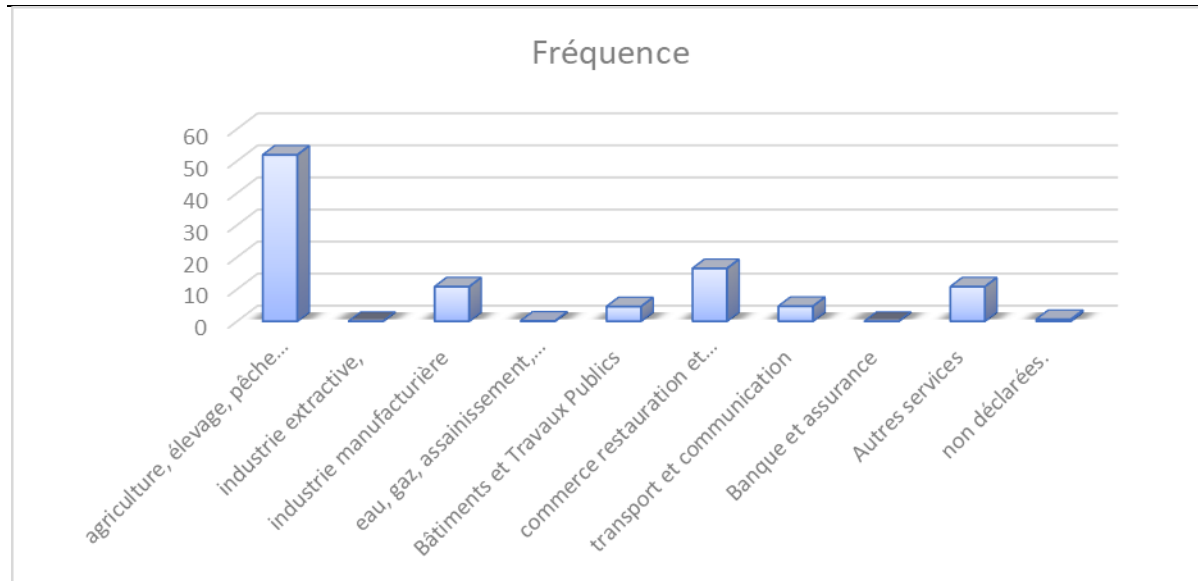


**Figure 2 :** Population trends in the Commune of Tori-Bossito from 1979 to 2013 and projection  
Source : INSAE, 2013 and Projection

Field data reveal that the population of the Commune of Tori-Bossito is heterogeneous and evolving gradually. It had 5381 inhabitants in 1979 (RGPH1), 37,167 inhabitants in 1992 (RGPH2), 44,569 inhabitants in 2002 (RGPH3) and 57,632 inhabitants in 2013, (RGPH4) with respective growth rates of 1.9% (1979-1992), 1.83% (1992-2002) and 2.28% (2002-2013). With a density of 136 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, the commune of Tori-Bossito is a veritable island of low population concentration compared with neighboring communes (PDC, 2005, p.13). However, taking as a reference the population resulting from the RGPH, 2013, a growth rate of 2.28%, and considering that the population structure remains unchanged, the population in 2030 is estimated at Pop<sub>2013</sub>(1.0228)<sup>17</sup>, i.e. 84,548 inhabitants with a forecast density of 355 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. This population growth observed in the Tori-Bossito commune is a productive force for the profitability of private investments, if it includes basic social services such as education, health, drinking water, nutrition, etc.

## 2.2 Overview of economic activities in the Commune of Tori-Bossito

The households surveyed mentioned around ten urban activities taking place in the Commune of Tori-Bossito. These urban activities relate to (i) agriculture, livestock, fishing and hunting, (ii) extractive industry, (iii) manufacturing industry, (iv) water, gas, sanitation, waste treatment and depollution, (v) building and public works, (vi) commerce catering and accommodation, (vii) transport and communication, (viii) banking and insurance, (ix) other services, (x) not declared (INSAE, 2016, p.5). Figure 3 gives a view of the percentage distribution of the working population by industry.



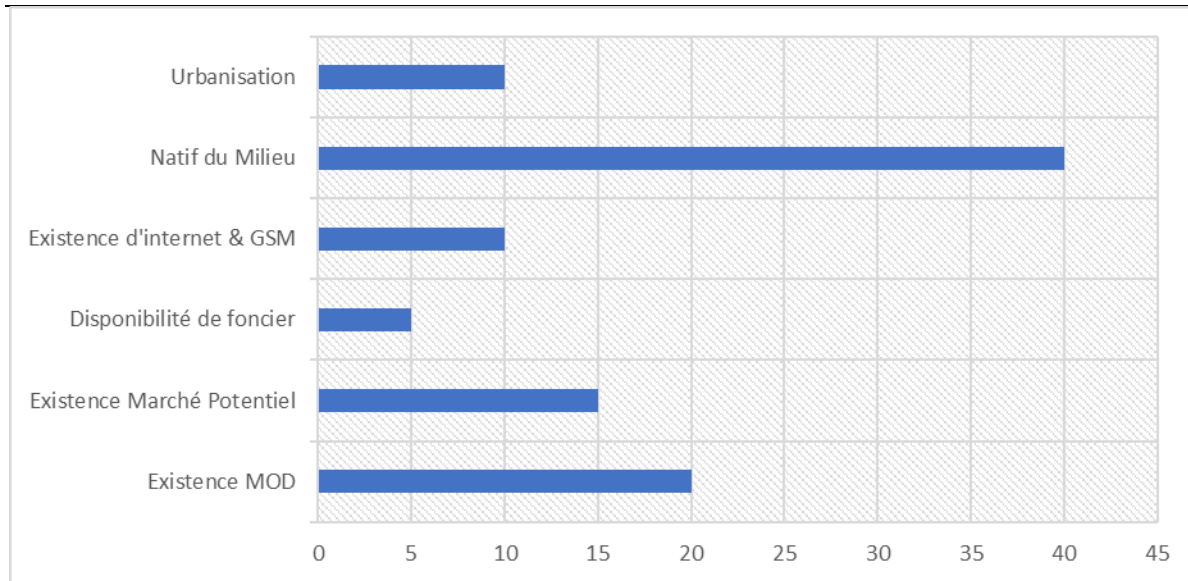
**Figure 3:** Distribution of the working population by branch of activity

Source: INSAE data, December 2022.

Analysis of figure 3 shows that 51.9% of the working population of the Commune of Tori-Bossito is employed in the "agriculture, livestock, fishing and hunting" branch of activity, compared with 16.5% in the "trade, catering and accommodation" branch, and 10.8% in the "manufacturing industry" and "other services" branches. The "Building and public works" and "Transport and communications" industries account for 4.6% and 4.7% of the workforce respectively.

### 2.3. Determinants in the creation of urban activities in rural areas

Several factors are decisive in the decision to set up an urban economic activity in a rural environment. These factors vary from one decision-maker to another, and range from the existence of a workforce to urbanization, as well as the existence of a potential market, land availability, the existence of Internet and GSM access, and local ownership. Figure 4 shows the degree of influence of each factor.



Source : Field data, december 2022

**Figure 4:** Determinants of business start-ups in rural areas

Examination of figure 4 reveals that 40% of urban economic activity creators are natives of the Tori-Bossito commune, versus 5% who decided to set up their income-generating activities based on land availability, the existence of a potential market (15%), the existence of new information and communication technologies (10%), the existence of a labor force favorable to work in the economic units created (20%), the advantages of urbanization of the Commune (10%). These results suggest that the "quality of life" factor takes precedence over the economic interests of business creators.

**2.4 Integration of ruban economic activities in rural areas**

According to (RGPH, 2002) quoted by PDC, (2005, 21), 60% of the population of the Commune of Tori-Bossito are involved in agriculture, 26% in trade, including agricultural products and products from agri-food processing, and 14% in other activities, notably construction and public works, transport, communication and handicrafts. The agricultural sector covers crop production, livestock breeding, fishing and fish farming, and forestry. Table II illustrates the economic activities of the populations.



**Table II: People's economic activities and stated preferences**

Declared preference business activities	Bar-restaurant (%)	Private School complexe (%)	Private Health Center (%)	Fishmonger (%)	Super market (%)	Hardware (%)
Bar-restaurant	54,3	12,3	13,3	4,3	15,7	0
Private School complexe	16,9	55,9	15,9	3,6	7,7	0
Private Health Center	17,8	32,6	33,7	2,2	9,8	3,9
Fishmonger	0	3	38	20	39	0
Super market	11,8	22,8	5,9	6,6	52,9	0
Hardware	28	20	19	0	12	21

Source: Field surveys, December 2022

Examination of Table I reveals the emergence of urban activities (bar-restaurants, private schools, private health centers, fishmongers, supermarkets, hardware stores) that are developing in the Commune of Tori-Bossito. This table shows the crossover between urban economic activities and the declared preference of rural populations. It reveals a highly significant dependency ( $\chi^2 = 72.80$ ,  $ddl = 24$ ,  $1-p = > 98.9\%$ ) through the determination of  $\chi^2$  (marginal numbers = sum of row/column numbers). Respondents' preferences were most pronounced for activities linked to catering (54.3%) and private school complexes (55.9%), compared with 33.7% for private health centers, 20% for fishmongers, 52.9% for supermarkets and 21% for hardware stores. The populations surveyed declare their preference for private school complexes on the basis of proximity and the quality of the education provided, despite the significant difference between private and public school fees. The development of these activities generates numerous jobs and services. Numerous craftsmen (tailors, bricklayers, carpenters, well-diggers, welders, mechanics, hairdressers, plumbers, weavers, tilers) carry out their activities or offer their services on the market. Services along the main roads. Photo 1 shows a sign indicating the sale of frozen products in Honvié.

**Photo 1:** Sign indicating the point of sale for frozen products in Honvié



Shot: GNIMADI Codjo Clément, December 2022

Examination of photo 1 reveals that the activity most common along these routes is small-scale or convenience trading, generally carried out by women, some unemployed young people and Beninese from other localities. The 57.2% of people surveyed engage in petty trade as an income-generating activity. These activities include street food, the sale of manufactured goods, condiments and building materials. They also include small stores built in homes and along streets. Figure 3 shows the main new economic activities developing in rural Tori-Bossito.

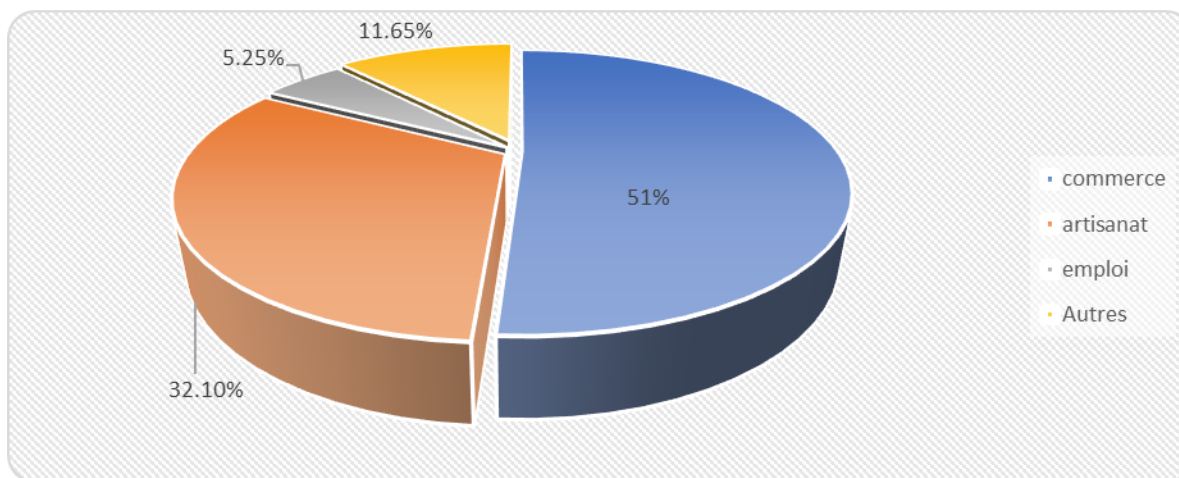


Figure 3: Main emerging economic activities in rural areas

Source: Field surveys, December 2022

Analysis of figure 3 reveals that activities linked to buying and selling (trade) are developing faster (51%) than handicrafts (32.10%) and other activities (11.65%). The development of these

activities enables young people to find occasional jobs or work as laborers (5.25%). Small traders provide the population with basic necessities (canned goods, agricultural produce, spices, kerosene, etc.). People who used to travel to the Cotonou metropolis now stock up on foodstuffs, cosmetics, spare parts, telecommunications products and building materials (sheet metal, concrete reinforcing bars, plumbing, cement, tiles, electrical equipment) close to home.

### **2.5. Craft industry dynamics**

Crafts and skilled trades are a key component of regional planning and local development policies. It is understood in its plurality and covers different activities (masonry, carpentry, butchery, microelectronics, sound and image, HVAC, mechanics, hairdressing, clothing, ceramics, jewelry, graphic arts, decoration, etc.). Handicrafts also cover other branches of economic activity that are developing in the Commune of Tori-Bossito, namely catering, building and public works, art production and services. The weight of the craft industry varies from one arrondissement to another, representing 19% of the active workforce in the arrondissements of Tori-Bossito and Tori-Cada, versus 8% in the arrondissements of Avamè, Tori-gare and Azohouè-Cada, where population density and urbanization rates are high. Two factors are driving the development of rural crafts in the Commune of Tori-Bossito. The first is the arrival of new inhabitants in the study area, and the second is the attachment of the local population to living together.

### **2.6. Transport and communication activities**

The municipality of Tori-Bossito has an extensive road network that facilitates the mobility of the population. The road sector is animated by "Zémidjan" motorcycle cabs and minibuses commonly known as "Tokpa-Tokpa". These means of transport contribute to the economic and social activities taking place in the rural areas of the study area. The 90% of households surveyed believe that the improved road network brings rural areas closer to the Cotonou metropolis for their supplies of manufactured goods. This makes it easier for people in the study area to get closer to the chief towns of neighboring communes such as Calavi, Godomey, Ouidah and Allada. For the 75% of households surveyed, improved rural transport links help to develop economic activities and ensure personal mobility. The widespread use of motorized transport, especially two-wheelers (taxi-moto), makes it easier for residents to get to work, and contributes to urban sprawl.

The 95% of households interviewed believe that digital coverage of rural areas is essential for the economic development of small and medium-sized businesses. Digital technology is essential for remote monitoring of business activities (80%), keeping track of children at school (56%), tracking goods on the road and so on from the metropolis to Tori-Bossito (45%). The cell phone network (MTN) is used more by economic players (65%), compared with (45%) for the Moov mobile network and (5%) for the Celtiis mobile network. The lack of these networks in certain arrondissements of the Commune of Tori-Bossito means that these areas have no digital coverage, known as "white zones". Photo 2 shows an MTN mobile network (Momo) credit top-up point in the village of Gbohoulé, in the Tori-Gare arrondissement.



**Photo 2:** MTN credit top-up and money transfer point in Gbohoué

Shot: GNIMADI Codjo Clément, December 2022

Analysis of photo 2 shows a rural area covered by the digital network. The widespread use of digital tools and their gradual extension to the entire study area means that new forms of work can be developed (cybercafés, mobile offices, etc.). This will help reduce the number of rush-hour commutes, and open up new employment opportunities.

### **2.7. The health service in the Commune of Tori-Bossito**

The health service offer is a combination of several sub-offers, namely the primary level characterized by the availability of general practitioners, nurses and pharmacists, and a complementary secondary level made up of specialist doctors, medical imaging technicians, laboratory technicians and medical biologists. Universal access to healthcare presupposes the existence of these various services in a commune. The health map of the Tori-Bossito Commune comprises two (02) dispensaries, three (03) maternity units and six (06) full health centers, i.e. 5,239 inhabitants per health center (INSAE, 2016, p.33; PDC, 2005, p. 24). In addition to this public health service, there are 26 private practices for a total population of 57,632. Photo 3 shows a private health center in Zoungoudo.



**Photo 3:** Health clinic in Zoungoudo

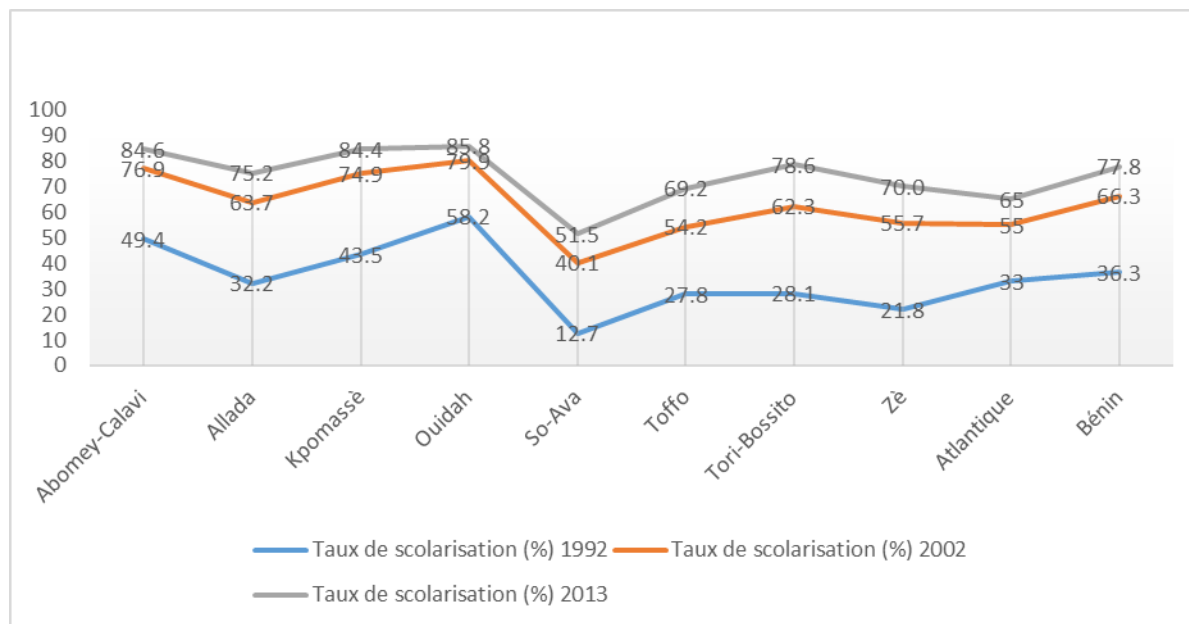
Shot: GNIMADI Codjo Clément, December 2022

Photo 3 shows a private healthcare practice. It is a local health facility that provides health care to the homeless population. 50% of households declare that they do not have easy access to primary healthcare. According to field data, 65% of households use private healthcare despite the high cost of services, compared with 35% who continue to use public health services, characterized by the lack of an adequate technical platform. According to 75% of those surveyed, private health centers are understaffed and lack certain working materials, although they are very present in all the villages of the Commune. The government's decision to close non-professional private health centers has put the people of the Commune of Tori-Bossito back into difficulties of access to local health care. The 45% of households surveyed prefer makeshift hospitals close to their place of residence, because of the distance they have to travel to reach public health centers. Over 83% of them turn to the Commune's clinics and health facilities for their medical care, compared with 14% who choose traditional practitioners to solve their health problems. The average time taken to access emergency services at private health facilities is 52 minutes in densely populated districts, compared with less than 30 minutes in less populated districts.

### **2.8. Promoting primary and secondary education centers**

According to the World Bank ([banquemonde.org/topic/education/overview](http://banquemonde.org/topic/education/overview)), education has a significant positive impact on improving incomes, and is the key to equity and inclusion. At the

individual level, education contributes to employment, income, health and poverty reduction. Figure 4 shows the evolution of the primary school enrolment rate for 6-11 year-olds in the commune of Tori-Bossito in the 1992, 2002 and 2013 General Population and Housing Censuses.



**Figure 4:** Trends in primary school enrolment rates for 6-11 year-olds in the commune of Tori-Bossito in 1992, 2002 and 2013

Source: INSAE data, 1992, 2002 and 2013.

The education sector in the Commune of Tori-Bossito is characterized by a gradual increase in the net enrolment rate, from 28.1% in 1992 to 62.3% in 2002 and 78.6% in 2013 (INSAE, 2013, p.3.) The rate of increase is 64.24% over the period 1992 to 2013. The strongest increase is seen in the period from 1992 to 2002 (54.89%) versus (20.73%) in the period from 2002 to 2013. An examination of figure 4 reveals that the school enrolment rate in the Commune of Tori-Bossito is higher than in the Atlantic department (77.8%), compared with 65% nationally. The private sector has come to meet the needs of the commune's population by setting up private school infrastructures under the authorization of the ministries responsible for the two levels of nursery, primary and secondary education. Photo 4 shows a private school complex in Maguévié.



Shot: GNIMADI Codjo Clément, December 2022

**Photo 4:** Private school complex in Maguévié

Examination of photo 4 reveals that private school infrastructure contributes to the improvement and development of the education sector in the Commune of Tori-Bossito and, by extension, to regional development. For both levels of education, 9% of households surveyed enrolled their children in public schools, compared with 80% in private schools, and 16% in religious establishments. The 35% of households surveyed cited the inadequacy and/or non-existence of public schools to explain their choice of private education centers, versus 2/3 who preferred private schools because of the distance of public schools from their place of residence.

### **2.9. Housing rental as an economic activity**

The Commune of Tori-Bossito is home to a wide variety of housing types. In villages with educational facilities such as secondary schools, "soldier line" type houses are predominant. These are one-room houses commonly known as "entrance-bedrooms". These rooms are intended for students, apprentices and young people working in the informal sector. Other, more improved, "living-room" type accommodation with kitchens are also appearing on the housing market. Prices vary according to area, type of house, with water and electricity, and range from 8,000 FCFA to 20,000 FCFA. Table III shows monthly rental costs by housing type in the commune of Tori-Bossito.

**Table III: Evolution of rental costs by housing type**

Nature des prix	Ordinaire sans électricité			Sanitaire sans électricité			
	Pièce	Une Chambre salon	Deux Chambres salon	Pièce	Une Chambre salon	Deux Chambres salon	Villa
Mini	3 000	5 000	10 000	5 000	7 000	15 000	25 000
Maxi	5 000	8 000	15 000	6 000	12 000	23 000	40 000
Moyenne	4 000	6 500	12 500	5 500	9 500	19 000	32 500
Nature des prix	Ordinaires avec électricité			Sanitaire avec électricité			
	Pièce	Une Chambre salon	Deux Chambre salon	Pièce	Une Chambre salon	Deux Chambre salon	Villa
Mini	5 000	8 000	15 000	8 000	12 000	20 000	35 000
Maxi	8 000	12 000	25 000	10 000	15 000	30 000	50 000
Moyenne	6 500	10 000	20 000	9 000	13 500	25 000	42 500

Source: Field surveys, August 2022.

Examination of Table III reveals that in the real estate sector, two criteria are used to set rents in the Commune of Tori-Bossito. These are the availability of conventional electricity and running water. Average rents for ordinary houses without electricity range from 4,000 FCFA to 1,500 FCFA per month. For houses with conventional electricity, monthly prices range from 6,500 FCFA to 20,000 FCFA. As for ordinary houses equipped with modern means of hygiene and sanitation (sanitary), without conventional electricity, rents vary between 5500 FCFA and 32500 FCFA against 9000 FCFA and 42500 FCFA for houses of the same type equipped with modern means of hygiene, sanitation and electricity. In the former case, the difference between the average "floor" rent and the average "ceiling" rent is 28500 FCFA, compared with 36,000 FCFA in the latter.

**3. DISCUSSION**

The analysis of the motives behind the creation of income-generating activities in rural areas in the Commune of Tori-Bossito has enabled us to draw up a typology of the businesses driving its revitalization and socio-economic development. The Commune of Tori-Bossito is undergoing changes that depend on its own socio-economic data and the trade relations established with the metropolis "Cotonou". These results are similar to those found by J-J. Arrighi (2004, p. 69) and S. Côté (1996, p. 527), who point out that demographic movements result in the regrouping of populations, with the corollary of the emergence of economic activities. These results are in line with those of P-H. Derycke (2009, p. 245); F. Moolaert and J. Nussbaumer (2008). In their studies on urban economics and the social logic of territorial development, these authors reveal that different socio-economic activities are subject to concentration-dispersion movements, resulting in economic flows that combine sectoral and spatial differentiation. In their view, movements that favor rural areas are linked to mature activities, in terms of technology and the existence of markets, while urban environments are conducive to new activities, playing a "nursery" role. The city concentrates trade and service activities, with the exception of all so-called proximity activities requiring close, repeated contact between vendor and customer. For



A. Bailly (2008, p.69), the dynamic of services is stronger in rural areas than in urban areas when it comes to services to the population. The same cannot be said for services to small businesses (bars, restaurants, refreshment stands, accommodation, etc.). The work of A. Fortin and C. Després (2008, p.164), reveal that the transformations underway are profound. For the same authors, the economic and social changes are significant. However, much remains to be done for areas geared to new economic activities, which remain sensitive to changes in general competitive conditions (state of technology and state of the market). The results of the study coincide with those found by C. C. GNIMADI et al, (2014, p.15) who revealed the role played by small towns in supplying villages with manufactured goods. For these authors, towns bring together the agglomerations of terroirs and contribute to the animation of an urban network.

#### **4.CONCLUSION**

Research into the emergence of urban economic activities in rural areas reveals that several factors determine the creation of businesses in the Commune of Tori-Bossito. These determinants vary from one decision-maker to another, and range from the availability of manpower to urbanization and the existence of a potential market capable of absorbing the goods and services produced. These income-generating businesses are established in very different proportions and include bars, restaurants, accommodation, private education centers, private health centers, fishmongers, supermarkets and hardware stores. Demographic changes in Tori-Bossito have led to an increase in consumer needs and basic social services. The local economy is opening up to the national market, benefiting farming households and other agri-food processing units.

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