

Supplementary Table. Background factors for children aged 6-59 months followed in the 2004, 2005 and 2006 cohorts stratified by sex^a.

	Boys				Girls			
	2004-cohort	2005-cohort	2006-cohort	P for same distribution ^b	2004-cohort	2005-cohort	2006-cohort	P for same distribution ^b
Number	4067	4084	4198		3931	4022	3956	
Age of child at the end of May (interquartile range)	30.9 (17.4-45.9)	30.0 (17.9-44.0)	30.6 (18.4-44.2)	0.44	30.6 (17.6-44.3)	29.5 (17.4-44.2)	29.6 (17.8-42.9)	0.37
Status at last visit prior to the end of May				<0.001				<0.001
Present	2729 (67)	2934 (72)	3036 (72)		2664 (68)	2840 (71)	2767 (70)	
Absent / Travelling	1336 (33)	1147 (28)	1146 (27)		1265 (32)	1180 (29)	1165 (29)	
Unborn	2 (0)	3 (0)	16 (0)		2 (0)	2 (0)	24 (1)	
Vaccination card seen at last visit prior to the end of May	1822 (45)	1933 (47)	1986 (47)	0.03	1744 (44)	1886 (47)	1870 (47)	0.02
DTP3 vaccinated	1280 (70)	1431 (74)	1472 (74)	0.01	1278 (73)	1417 (75)	1391 (74)	0.44
Measles vaccinated	1367 (75)	1480 (77)	1446 (73)	0.03	1351 (77)	1394 (74)	1321 (71)	<0.001

Mean mid upper arm circumference (children present at the visit prior to start of follow-up) ^c									
		148 (13)	149 (13)	149 (14)	0.007	146 (14)	147 (14)	146 (14)	0.007
Co-resident with the mother (children born at visit prior to 29-05-2004 /29-05-2005 / 29-05-2006)									
		3952 (97)	3966 (97)	4050 (97)	0.53	3770 (96)	3863 (96)	3782 (96)	0.87
Maternal characteristics for children co-resident with the mother									
	Median age at the birth of the child in years (interquartile range) ^d								
		24.7 (20.5-30.5)	24.8 (20.5-30.4)	25.0 (20.7-30.6)	0.53	24.7 (20.4-30.1)	24.7 (20.3-30.1)	24.9 (20.5-30.4)	0.34
	Any formal education (%) ^e								
		616 (16)	640 (16)	674 (17)	0.42	597 (16)	630 (16)	648 (17)	0.29
	Ethnicity (%) ^f								
	Balanta	699 (18)	733 (19)	750 (19)	0.74	610 (16)	607 (16)	625 (17)	0.98
	Fula	1044 (26)	1046 (26)	1108 (27)		1065 (28)	1081 (28)	1050 (28)	
	Mandinga	799 (20)	814 (21)	845 (21)		799 (21)	843 (22)	845 (19)	

		Pepel	774 (20)	750 (19)	735 (18)		738 (20)	754 (20)	709 (19)	
		Manjaco/Mancanha	336 (9)	336 (8)	330 (8)		304 (8)	317 (8)	305 (8)	
		Other	295 (7)	284 (7)	269 (7)		251 (7)	254 (7)	245 (6)	

a: Excluding 3 children with missing information on sex.

b: Tested using chi2, linear regression or Kruskal-Wallis test, comparing the 2006-cohort with the 2004-2005-cohort

c: Excluding 184 children with missing information on mid upper arm circumference, 99 boys, 85 girls.

d: Excluding 41 children with missing information on maternal age, 26 boys, 15 girls.

e: Excluding 297 children with missing information on maternal education, 140 boys, 157 girls.

f: Excluding 34 children with missing information on ethnicity, 21 boys, 13 girls.