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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56153

**Title:** Planification familiale et politique de la santé de la reproduction à l'épreuve de la croissance démographique au Niger

**Recommendation:**

Accept after minor revision.....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity	✓			
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Faheem Abdul Muneeb

### Reviewer's Comment

This manuscript offers a comprehensive qualitative assessment of family planning (planification familiale – PF) and reproductive health (santé de la reproduction – SR) policies in Niger in the context of sustained and rapid demographic growth. Anchored in a historical and policy-oriented framework, the study examines the evolution of national population policies, the 2006 Reproductive Health Law (N°2006-16), successive Health Development Plans (PDS), and the 2019 National Population Policy (PNP). The article moves beyond behavioral explanations of fertility by focusing instead on institutional implementation, actor dynamics, and coordination mechanisms.

The topic is highly relevant, particularly given Niger's exponential population growth, illustrated by the demographic trend presented in *Graphique 1* (p. 8), which shows population growth from approximately 3.2 million in 1960 to over 24 million in 2020. By linking policy ambitions with demographic realities, the manuscript contributes meaningfully to debates on governance, demographic transition, reproductive rights, and development planning in the Sahelian context.

### Scientific Contribution and Empirical Strength

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The manuscript's principal contribution lies in its institutional cartography of actors involved in PF and SR in Niger. The identification of 100 key actors across ministries, NGOs, development partners, and training institutions (see *Tableau 1*, p. 3) provides strong empirical grounding. The categorization of actors into state institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and training centers offers analytical clarity and helps explain overlapping mandates and coordination challenges.

The study's originality stems from its emphasis on rivalry, competition for visibility, and weak coordination among actors as structural constraints to policy effectiveness. The analysis of coordination dysfunction—particularly the limitations of the Groupe de Travail Technique—is empirically supported by interview excerpts and documentary evidence. The demographic analysis, drawing on United Nations and INS census data, reinforces the argument that despite extensive policy frameworks, fertility decline remains limited.

The integration of political discourse (e.g., presidential statements on demographic urgency) with policy documents strengthens the macro–micro linkage and enhances the analytical depth of the study.

**Methodology and Analytical Approach**

The methodological approach combines documentary review and qualitative interviews conducted with 100 strategic actors. This mixed qualitative design is appropriate for examining policy implementation and institutional dynamics. The use of secondary demographic data (EDSN, censuses, UN projections) adds contextual robustness.

However, the methodological section could benefit from modest condensation and clarification. While the sampling frame is clearly described, additional detail regarding interview procedures, coding strategies, and analytical techniques would strengthen methodological transparency. The multidimensional character of the approach is convincing, but a clearer articulation of how qualitative data were systematically analyzed (e.g., thematic coding) would enhance rigor.

These observations remain minor and editorial rather than structural weaknesses.

**Structure, Style, and Presentation**

The manuscript is logically structured, progressing from historical policy genesis to actor mapping, coordination challenges, demographic evolution, and discussion. The integration of *Graphique 1* (p. 8) effectively illustrates the disconnect between policy ambition and demographic momentum.

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Nevertheless, the article is relatively lengthy, and certain sections—particularly those describing successive policy plans (PDS 1994–2000, 2005–2009, 2011–2015, 2016–2021)—contain repetition of similar strategic priorities. Moderate synthesis would improve readability and sharpen analytical focus. Some paragraphs in the discussion section reiterate earlier findings and could be streamlined.

Minor language editing is recommended to address occasional grammatical inconsistencies and improve stylistic fluidity in both French and English abstracts.

Regarding the title, it accurately reflects the content and analytical focus. However, if the authors wish to emphasize the governance and coordination dimension more explicitly, a slightly streamlined alternative such as:

« *Planification familiale et gouvernance de la santé reproductive face à la croissance démographique au Niger* »

could be considered. This remains optional, as the current title is appropriate.

### Final Recommendation

This manuscript presents a well-documented, policy-relevant, and analytically grounded study of family planning and reproductive health governance in Niger. It successfully demonstrates the tension between ambitious demographic objectives and institutional coordination constraints, supported by qualitative evidence and demographic data.

With **minor revisions** focused on condensation, methodological clarification, stylistic refinement, and optional title adjustment, the manuscript will be well suited for publication.

**Decision: Accepted with minor revisions.**