



THE INTER-SECRETARIAT
**WORKING GROUP ON
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS**

Delivering our commitment to countries

Haoyi Chen, Coordinator



unstats.un.org/iswghs

Outline

- ❑ What is ISWGHS? What has it done?
- ❑ Feedbacks from countries/others in the community
- ❑ What's next?

The Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS): introduction

❑ Established in 2015 by the UNSC

❑ Objectives:

- i. Improve coordination of household surveys
- ii. Advance cross-cutting innovative survey methodology
- iii. Enhance communication and advocacy

❑ Governance

- Membership: 11 international agencies + 10 (rotating) member states
- Secretariat: UN Statistics Division
- Current co-chairs: WB and UNW

❑ Work through time-bound Task Forces, led by and with contribution from members and non-member experts.

The Role of Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys



Created by Shireen Frost
from NCA Project

- Foster **coordination** at the national and international level: planning, financing and implementation
- Access and identify national **capacity building needs**
- Provide a **common platform** for training materials
- Coordinating activities of members in initiating **innovative approaches** and **experimentation** and fostering **exchange** of experiences



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from NCA Project

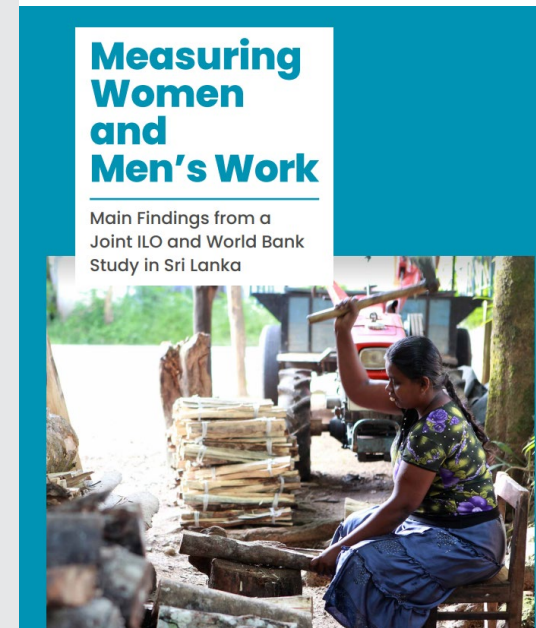
- Developing guidelines and training materials along priority areas outlined in this position paper
- Encourage and support **experimentation** with and scaling-up of **innovative methods**



- Foster the **exchange** of national experiences and innovative methods, through various channels
- **Collaborate** with key partners (NSO, CSO, research institutes) to stay informed of latest developments and to seek collaboration opportunities
- **Organise** meetings and workshops to advocate for innovative approaches

Foster coordination of household survey systems at the national, regional and global level

- ❑ Working with 5 countries and SPC on experiences and challenges in coordinating survey activities: empowering NSOs to take the lead in planning survey activities in a coordinated way
- ❑ Members collaborating on testing instrument for more coordinated data collection
- ❑ Facilitating conversations on survey coordination



Encourage and support experimentation with and scaling-up of innovative methods

☐ COVID-19 related support:

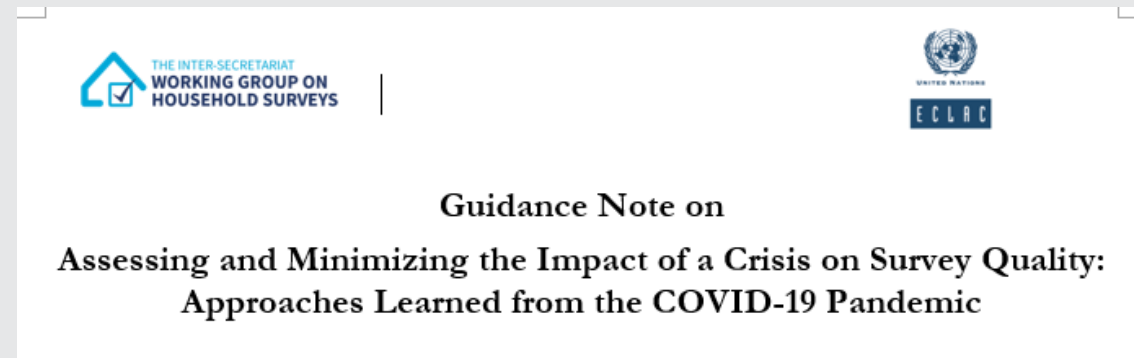
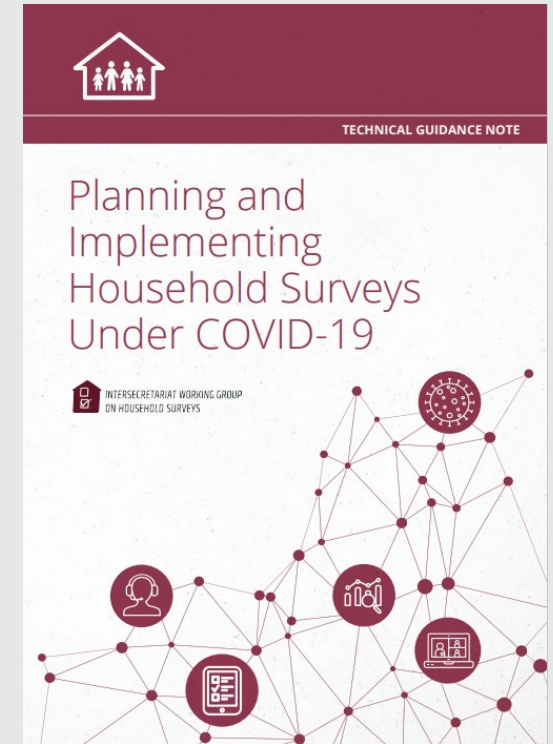
- Planning and Implementing Household Surveys under COVID-19
- Guidance Note on Assessing and Minimizing the Impact of a Crisis on Survey Quality: Approaches Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic
- [COVID impact surveys dashboard](#) (+800 surveys)

☐ Microdata dissemination; Spatial Anonymization

☐ Inclusive data collection, incl. respondent-centered survey design

☐ SDG data disaggregation

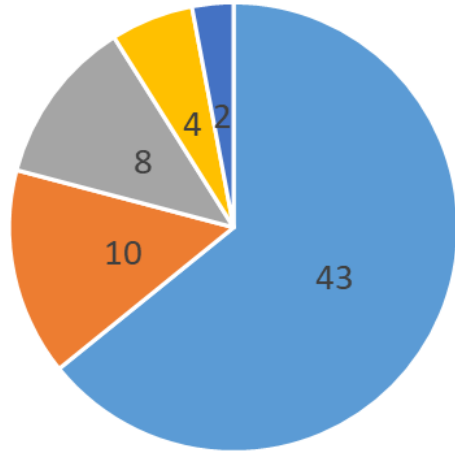
☐ Data integration



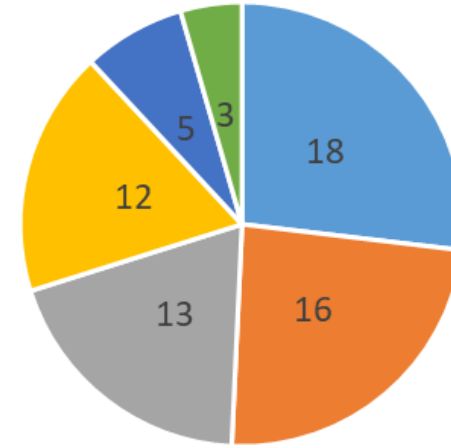
Foster exchange of experiences

- ❑ Holding monthly webinars with partners on innovative approaches
 - COVID responses, data integration (SAE), inclusive data (survey and questionnaire design), sampling, mixed-mode data collection, working with private sectors
- ❑ Being present in all major statistical events: UNSC side events, ISI-WSC, WDF and IFMS
- ❑ Responding to requests from members and connecting countries and experts
 - Country survey focal points
 - Stakeholder communication: monthly newsletter

Listening to our stakeholders: annual surveys



- NSO
- International/regional organisation
- CSO
- Academia
- National line ministry - non-NSO



- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe and Northern America
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Central and Southern Asia
- Eastern and South-Eastern Asia
- Northern Africa and Western Asia

Total: 67 responses (2021 survey)

Listening to our stakeholders

How satisfied are respondents with our communication?

How satisfied with our communication	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Very satisfied	36	54
Somewhat satisfied	27	40
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	4
(blank)	1	1
Grand Total	67	100

What is welcomed?

- Guidance and organized webinars/events
- Sharing of the latest development in survey methodologies
- Helped with networking and sharing experiences among each other
- COVID-19 work

What information would you like to see more?

What information would you like to see MORE in our communication?	% respondents
Availability of methodological work	85
Training opportunities	78
Country practices	69
Webinars and meetings	66
The work of ISWGHS	52

A new paradigm? “Positioning household surveys for the next decade”

Objective:

Identify priority technical areas and sketch out the required enabling environment for household surveys to perform their foundational roles, meet new data demands, and increase their policy and research impact in the remaining decade for the SDGs

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Positioning household surveys for the next decade

Calogero Carletto^a, Haoyi Chen^{b,*}, Talip Kilic^a and Francesca Perucci^c

^aDevelopment Data Group, World Bank, Washington, DC, USA

^bInter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys and United Nations Statistics Division, New York, NY, USA

^cUnited Nations Statistics Division, New York, NY, USA

Abstract. Household surveys are a vital component of national statistical systems. They are the basis for official statistics on social and economic phenomena and are key to tracking progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, despite their importance, household surveys face various challenges, including problems with data quality, timeliness, and policy relevance, among others. Prepared by the United Nations Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS), this paper identifies eight technical priority areas for innovations in household survey design, implementation, and analysis. With these in mind, the paper also presents a set of recommendations for fostering enabling environments at the national and international levels to support the production of more and higher-quality household survey data that are affordable and responsive to policy needs. The paper aims to inform both the considerations of national statistical offices as they weigh priorities and pursue innovations to transform their household survey systems, as well as the work of ISWGHS in executing its mandate to support countries in achieving the SDGs.

Keywords: Household surveys, COVID-19, innovation, data integration, SDGs

1. Introduction

As a key source of social and economic statistics, household surveys are a vital component of national statistical systems. Not only do they provide data that inform the design and evaluation of development policies, they are also a unique source of attitudinal and behavioral insights difficult to obtain elsewhere. Household surveys are critical for tracking progress towards national and international development goals, providing the requisite information for more than a third of all 232 indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), cutting across 13 out of 17 SDGs [1]. They can be used to improve and complement administrative data sources, as well as to validate and calibrate remote-sensing models and machine learning applications that combine household surveys with non-traditional data

sources, providing insights with accuracy and precision that cannot otherwise be achieved by using these data sources alone. Today, the need for household surveys is greater than ever, given the widespread socioeconomic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that have resulted in an increase in global poverty for the first time in two decades [2]. Survey data are key to understanding the distributional impacts on households and individuals of global shocks and crises such as COVID-19, as well as climate change, natural disasters, and extreme weather events.

Despite the substantial progress that has been achieved in the availability and quality of household surveys over the past decade, weaknesses persist in their availability, coverage, accuracy, timeliness, affordability, policy relevance, and usability, particularly in the low-income countries that stand to benefit most from better survey data. Urbanization and higher income levels tend to reduce survey response rates, lengthy questionnaires bring about respondent fatigue with negative consequences for data quality, and coordination failures

*Corresponding author: Haoyi Chen, Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys and United Nations Statistics Division, New York, NY, USA. E-mail: chen9@un.org.

Positioning household surveys for the next decade

8 technical priorities

1. Enhancing the interoperability and integration of household surveys
2. Designing and implementing more inclusive, respondent-centric surveys
3. Improving sampling efficiency and coverage
4. Scaling up the use of objective measurements
5. Building capacity for CAPI, phone, web, and mixed-mode surveys
6. Systematizing the collection, storage, and use of paradata and metadata
7. Incorporating machine learning and artificial intelligence for data quality control and analysis
8. Improving data access, discoverability, and dissemination.

Plus:

- Fostering a stronger **enabling environment**: at **national** and **global** levels



What's new?

- ❑ Using the “Position paper” to guide our work priority
- ❑ Extending of our networks with other communities:
 - Geospatial
 - Citizen generated data
 - Administrative data
 - Censuses
 - Private sectors
- ❑ Establishing a Technical Advisory Group to guide our work
- ❑ Working more closely with regional commissions/regional organisations

Questions?

chen9@un.org

