
Global Preparatory seminar for the United Nations World Data Forum

Panel 4: Household Surveys in the 21st Century:
challenges and opportunities in an evolving
environment

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What are the key challenges and opportunities for enhancing the role of household surveys for monitoring the SDGs and beyond?

Challenges:

- Expensive : Data needs exploding while the resources remain the same or less
- Quality of data: experiencing high non-response, slippage rates and this could be biased - the affluent are difficult to access/enumerate
- Proxy response on the increase and affects quality of data
- Lack of Timeliness
- Inability to report at lower level of geography or other smaller domains otherwise very expensive

Opportunities

- Legislation and NSS
- Government willingness to fund key surveys/censuses regularly (QLFS, GHS, LCS, CS and Census)
- Technical support (international organisations and local research institution)
- Vibrant users/clients community- Participation and Growing Private Public Partnerships (We have a growing number of user paid surveys(NTS, CSS))
- Technological advancement - Although the initial cost of acquiring technology is high but eventually it lowers the cost of conducting a survey including timeliness
- Thinking of new ways of doing business: for example is it still viable to use the same approach for doing interviews, should we not be exploring a multi pronged approach in doing surveys, eg a mixture of online interviews (eg. for gated communities in SA) and face to face interviews.

Most notable improvements and groundbreaking innovations which can help making household surveys more relevant and cost-effective

For South Africa it is the move from paper based personal interviews to digital collection which was introduced with the 2016 Community Survey



The South Africa I know, the home I understand



The South Africa I know, the home I understand

Are there any opportunities for public-private partnerships to advance the household survey agenda? Do you know of any example of successful public-private partnership

- data suppliers (big data)
- User paid surveys: funding of specific surveys
- Service providers (Outsourcing of fieldwork)
- Data integration

For the World Data Forum in South Africa

- Separate household survey session, integrated into other sessions or both? – we need a separate household survey section where the details being discussed in this seminar can be explored in detail
- Format : Country Experiences in integrating household surveys with administrative data and/or big data for better disaggregation. Discussions on having integrated surveys with modules rather than stand alone surveys.
- Outputs : Innovative ways on how to do households surveys to address the needs of the post 2015 development agenda.

Existing data sources cannot match the need



Thank you