THE INTER-SECRETARIAT
WORKING GROUP ON
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Fulfill our commitment – the role of Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

Haoyi Chen, Coordinator

unstats.un.org/iswghs

Outline

- ❑ What is ISWGHS? What has it done?
- ❑ Feedbacks from countries/others in the community
- ❑ Positioning household surveys for the next decade, and what's next?

ISWGHS

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.

ISWGHS

The Role of Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

- 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

- 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

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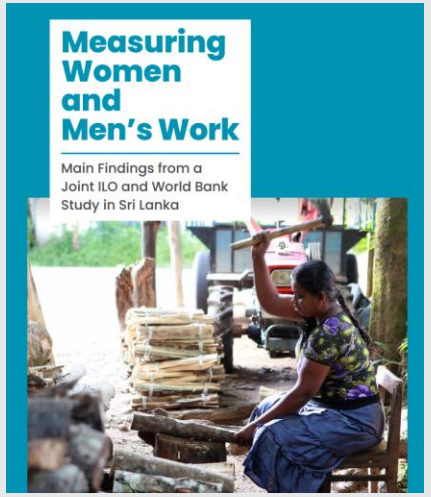
Foster coordination of household survey systems at the national, regional and global level

- ❑ Working with 5 countries and the Pacific Community 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



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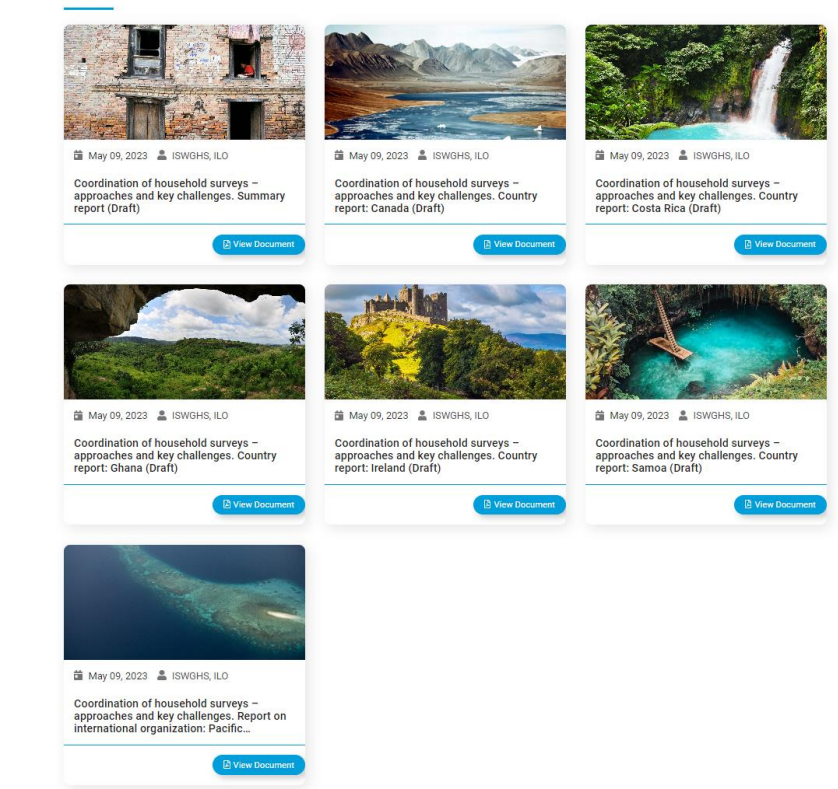
Foster coordination of household survey systems at the national, regional and global level (2)



- ❑ Coordination of surveys is multi-faceted: coordination, integration and harmonization. Vary greatly by countries
- ❑ The role of NSOs
- ❑ Multi-year planning is crucial but challenging: predictable funding?
- ❑ Various approaches: large-scale survey redevelopment processes. Resources and senior-level buy-in
- ❑ No one-size fits all
- ❑ Support from the international community: what's next?

https://unstats.un.org/iswghs/TaskForcesDetails/recommendations-on-a-comprehensive-national-hhs-programme

ISWGHS

Foster coordination of household survey systems at the national, regional and global level (3)

- Pilot project for the compilation of a household survey calendar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Title of the survey	Type/Main topic of survey	If in the previous list of topics you chose 'Other', please specify	Expected start date of data collection Specify month and year	Expected end date of data collection Specify month and year	Current stage of development	If the current stage of development was not in the previous list please specify	What is the planned frequency for administering this survey?	If in the previous list of frequencies you chose 'Other', please specify	Are you receiving technical support for the survey?	If yes - who is providing technical support?	Are you receiving financial support for the survey, in addition to the regular budget of the organisation?	If yes - who is financially supporting the survey?	Is funding for the survey secured?	Geographical coverage of the survey?	At what level of dissaggregation can you produce indicators?	Describe briefly the sampling method

WGHS

Supporting countries during crisis time

- 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)

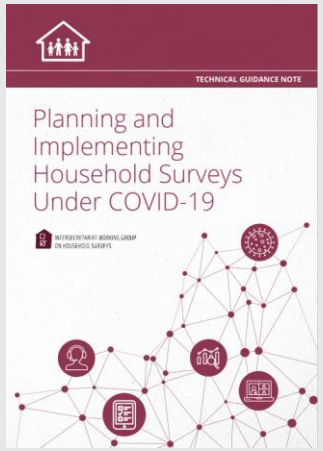
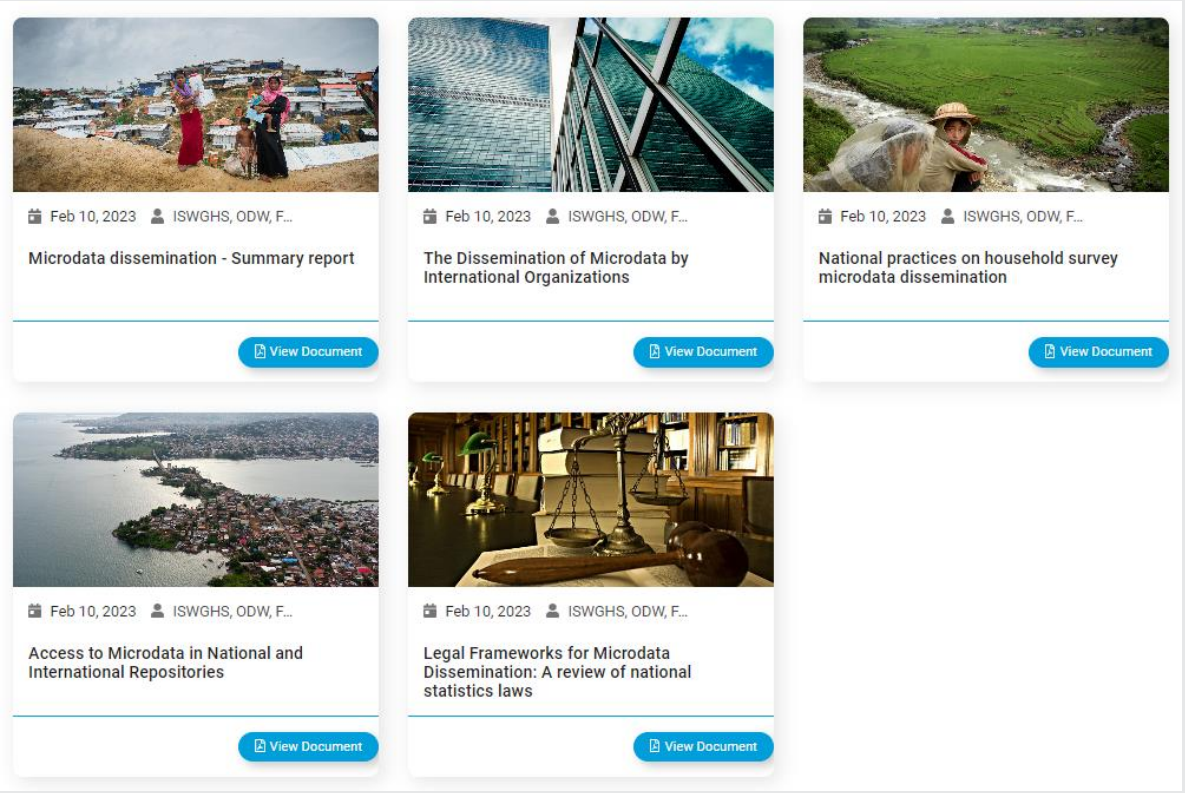


Table of Content

List of tables 4
List of figures 4
Acknowledgement 5
Executive summary 5
I. Introduction 6
II. Household survey operations pre- and during COVID-19: Potential impact of the pandemic on survey quality 8
A. Relevant concepts and definitions 8
B. Data quality frameworks 10
C. Impact of changes introduced during COVID-19 11
i. Changing sampling frame 12
ii. Changing data collection mode 14
iii. Changing survey questionnaire 16
iv. Other changes 17
D. Summary 20
III. Assessing quality and methods to reduce and correct errors 20
A. Mode-specific selection effect 20
i. Calculating response rate 21
ii. Assessing the nature of missingness 23
iii. Detecting a bias 25
iv. Selecting benchmarking sources 31
v. Correcting the bias with weighting and calibration 34
B. Mode-specific measurement effect 45
i. Using paradata 45
ii. Comparing with pre-COVID-19 results 46
iii. Designing an experiment 47
C. Major effects outside of the impact of changes in data collection mode 48
D. Summary 49
IV. Surveys based on non-probabilistic sampling 51
V. Disseminating Survey Data During COVID-19 and Communicating Data Quality 53
A. When and what to publish? 53
B. Communicating survey methods and results 53
VI. Lessons learnt and implication for future 55
VII. References 56
Appendix – R codes to implement adjustment of sampling weights 63

Dissemination and anonymization of survey microdata

- Microdata dissemination
  - Dissemination of microdata by international organisations
  - Access to microdata in National and International Repositories: <50% LIC and LMIC countries disseminate microdata through national repositories
  - National practices on household survey microdata dissemination
  - Legal frameworks for microdata dissemination: a review of national statistical laws
    - 93% (out of 167 countries) cover some clauses on confidentiality
    - 50%: when individual-level data can be disseminated
    - 45% defined confidential data
    - 1/3: data protection
    - 25%: scientific/research purposes and public use
    - Large regional difference in up-to-dateness: Europe/NA
- Spatial Anonymization



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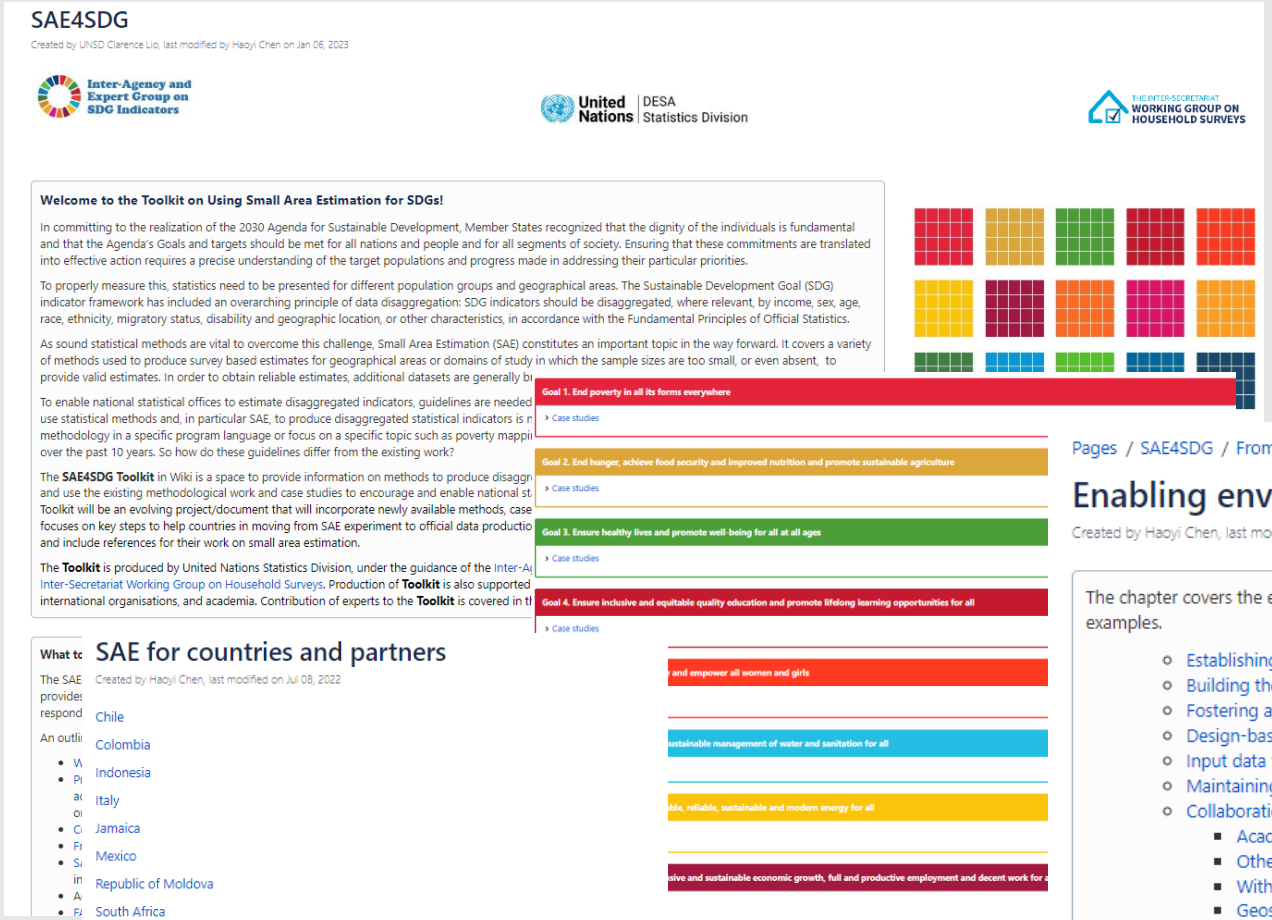
Supporting SDG data disaggregation


SAE4SDG

Created by UNSD Clarence Lio, last modified by Haoyi Chen on Jan 06, 2023

Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators

United Nations | DESA Statistics Division

THE INTER-SECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP ON HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Welcome to the Toolkit on Using Small Area Estimation for SDGs!

In committing to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States recognized that the dignity of the individuals is fundamental and that the Agenda's Goals and targets should be met for all nations and people and for all segments of society. Ensuring that these commitments are translated into effective action requires a precise understanding of the target populations and progress made in addressing their particular priorities.

To properly measure this, statistics need to be presented for different population groups and geographical areas. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator framework has included an overarching principle of data disaggregation: SDG indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

As sound statistical methods are vital to overcome this challenge, Small Area Estimation (SAE) constitutes an important topic in the way forward. It covers a variety of methods used to produce survey based estimates for geographical areas or domains of study in which the sample sizes are too small, or even absent, to provide valid estimates. In order to obtain reliable estimates, additional datasets are generally b

To enable national statistical offices to estimate disaggregated indicators, guidelines are needed use statistical methods and, in particular SAE, to produce disaggregated statistical indicators is methodology in a specific program language or focus on a specific topic such as poverty mappi over the past 10 years. So how do these guidelines differ from the existing work?

The **SAE4SDG Toolkit** in Wiki is a space to provide information on methods to produce disaggr and use the existing methodological work and case studies to encourage and enable national st Toolkit will be an evolving project/document that will incorporate newly available methods, case focuses on key steps to help countries in moving from SAE experiment to official data productio and include references for their work on small area estimation.

The **Toolkit** is produced by United Nations Statistics Division, under the guidance of the Inter-A Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. Production of **Toolkit** is also supported international organisations, and academia. Contribution of experts to the **Toolkit** is covered in t

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

› Case studies

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

› Case studies

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

› Case studies

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

› Case studies

What to

The SAE provides respond

An outli

- W
- P
- C
- F
- S
- A
- F

SAE for countries and partners

Created by Haoyi Chen, last modified on Jul 08, 2022

Chile
Colombia
Indonesia
Italy
Jamaica
Mexico
Republic of Moldova
South Africa
United Kingdom
US Census Bureau
Asian Development Bank
FAO
UN-ECLAC
World Bank
Others

and empower all women and girls

sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

ble, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

sive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for

ture, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

in and among countries

Pages / SAE4SDG / From SAE experiment to production: challenges and the enabling environment

Enabling environment to foster the use of SAE for official data production

Created by Haoyi Chen, last modified on Jul 02, 2022

The chapter covers the enabling environment that is required for National Statistical Offices to move from SAE experimentation to production. Whenever available, disc examples.

- Establishing a clear and focused objective that links SAE to data use for policymaking
- Building the legal foundation for using SAE for official data production
- Fostering an environment for research and development
- Design-based versus model-based estimates: a changing culture in the national statistical offices
- Input data for SAE
- Maintaining a high and fit-for-purpose quality standard
- Collaboration
  - Academia
  - Other government institutions and private sector
  - Within national statistical system
  - Geospatial specialists
- Capacity building
- Transparency in releasing methodology and communicating quality

- Practical way forward: from experimental statistics to official statistics
- Future challenges
- References

- Small area estimation
  - SAE4SDG: a wiki-platform to share methods/experiences in using SAE for official statistics
  - eLearning course, with ECLAC & UNFPA (English, French)

https://unstats.un.org/wiki/display/SAE4SDG/SAE4SDG

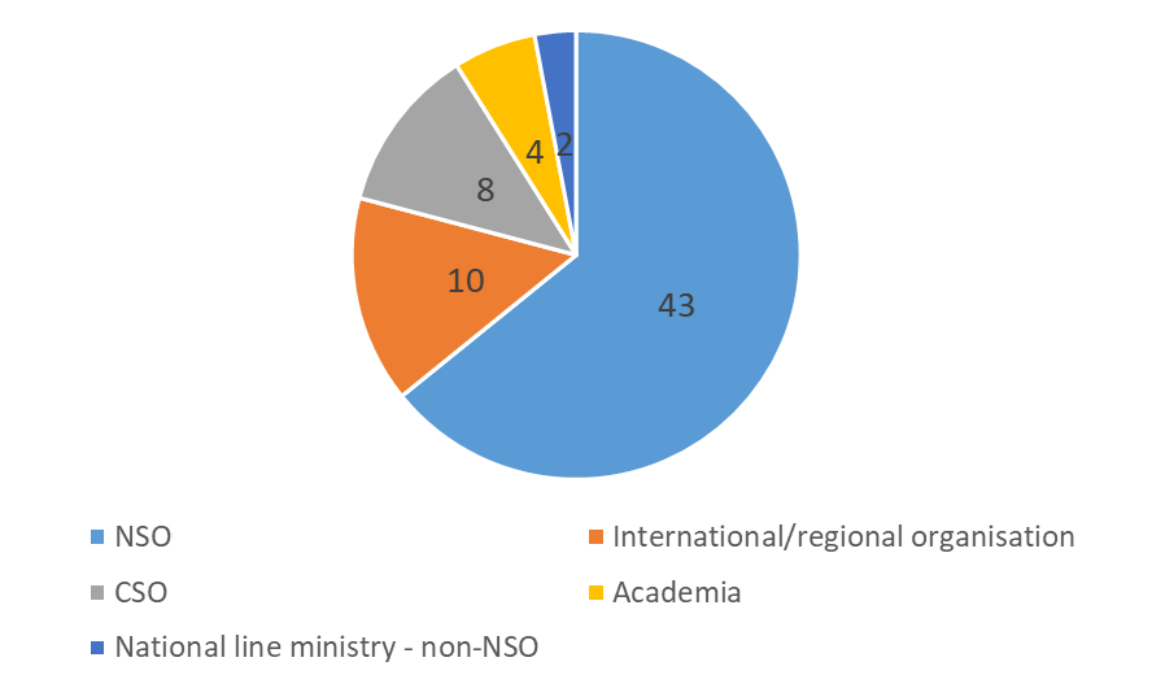
GHS

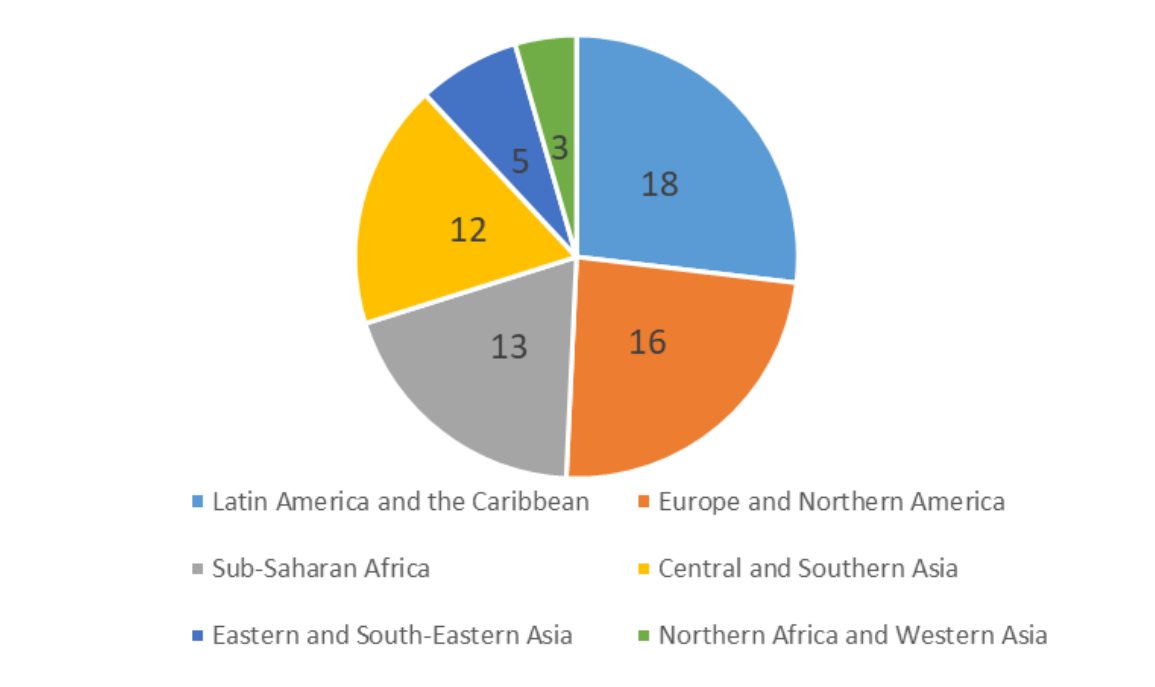
Foster exchange of experiences

- ❑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, SAE conference and IFMS
- ❑Responding to requests from members and connecting countries and experts
  - Country survey focal points
  - Stakeholder communication: monthly newsletter
  - 1-1 meeting with country members

ISWGHS

Listening to our stakeholders: annual surveys





Total: 67 responses (2021 survey)

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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

ISWGHS

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

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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

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ISWGHS

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

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What's new?

- ❑ Using the "Position paper" to guide our work priority
- ❑ Two new areas of work:
  - Respondent-centred survey design, led by ONS
  - Data integration, led by Malaysia DOSM
  - Sample frame and sampling
- ❑ Extending of our networks with other communities:
  - Geospatial
  - Citizen generated data
  - Administrative data
  - Censuses
  - Private sectors
- ❑ Collaborating with Academia

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Questions?

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