

Workshop on Improving the availability and quality of individual-level data on women and youth  
in Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) surveys

# The status of the employment data in household surveys

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# Reviewed surveys

	<b>LSMS(-ISA)</b>	<b>LFS</b>	<b>DHS</b>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	2014	n.a.	2014
<b>Ethiopia</b>	2015	2013	2016
<b>Malawi</b>	2017	2013	2015/16
<b>Mali</b>	2014	2013	2015
<b>Niger</b>	2014	2014	2012
<b>Nigeria</b>	2016	n.a.	2013
<b>Tanzania</b>	2015	2014	2009/10
<b>Uganda</b>	2014	2009	2016
<b>Guatemala</b>	2000	2014	2014/15
<b>Nepal</b>	2011	2007/08	2016
<b>Nicaragua</b>	2014	2005	2001
<b>Tajikistan</b>	2009	n.a.	2012
<b><i>Indonesia National Social Economic Survey</i></b>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2012</i>
<b><i>South Africa General Household Survey</i></b>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>1998</i>

# Do the surveys capture the SDGs?

	LSMS-ISA	LSMS(-type) surveys	LFS	DHS	
<b>Employment (old definition)</b>	88%	86%	92%	100%	1. Surveys are not yet adapted to the new definition of employment (except Malawi and Nigeria)
<b>Unemployment</b>	75%	43%	92%	0%	
<b>Inactivity</b>	75%	43%	92%	0%	
<b>Domestic and care work (hours)</b>	13%	43%	33%	0%	2. In general, surveys capture the SDGs, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some surveys lack specific questions</li> <li>• Unpaid domestic and care work is generally not captured</li> <li>• Income is hard to measure, and income of self-employed activities only measured in LSMS(-ISA) surveys</li> </ul>
<b>Sector</b>	100%	71%	92%	0%	
<b>Occupation</b>	100%	57%	92%	100%	
<b>Formal/Informal employment</b>	75%	57%	75%	0%	
<b>Hours worked by occupation</b>	100%	57%	92%	0%	
<b>Hourly earnings of employees</b>	88%	86%	75%	0%	
<b>Income by occupation</b>	±	±	0%	0%	
<b>NEET</b>	75%	57%	92%	0%	

# Measurement issues in women and youth employment

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Women and young people are more frequently engaged in temporary or seasonal work or 'domestic activities' than adult men (Barrientos et al., 2004)

Problems in under- or overreporting activities and time spent by activity might be due to:

1. Use of inappropriate screening questions to define 'activity' (Fox & Pimhidzai, 2013; ILO, 2018h)
2. Use of inadequate reference period to capture employment rate and its seasonality (Schaffner, 2000)
3. Frequent use of response by proxy in household surveys (Bardasi et al., 2011; Dillon, Bardasi, Beegle, & Serneels, 2012)

# How should we measure paid and unpaid work?

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## 1. Activity list

- LSMS in Nepal 2011, rarely used in multi-topic surveys
- A complete list of paid and unpaid activities that are **common in the region/country**
- Concerns: it requires a context specific activity list

## 2. Keyword questions

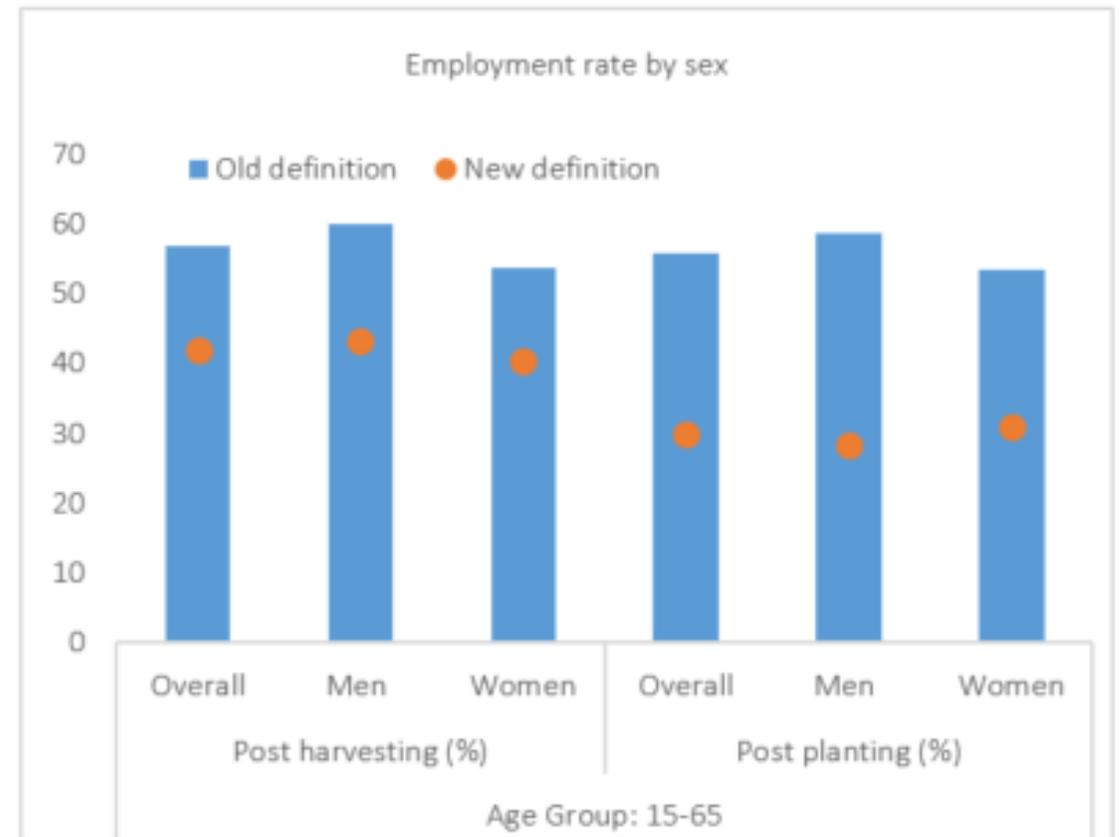
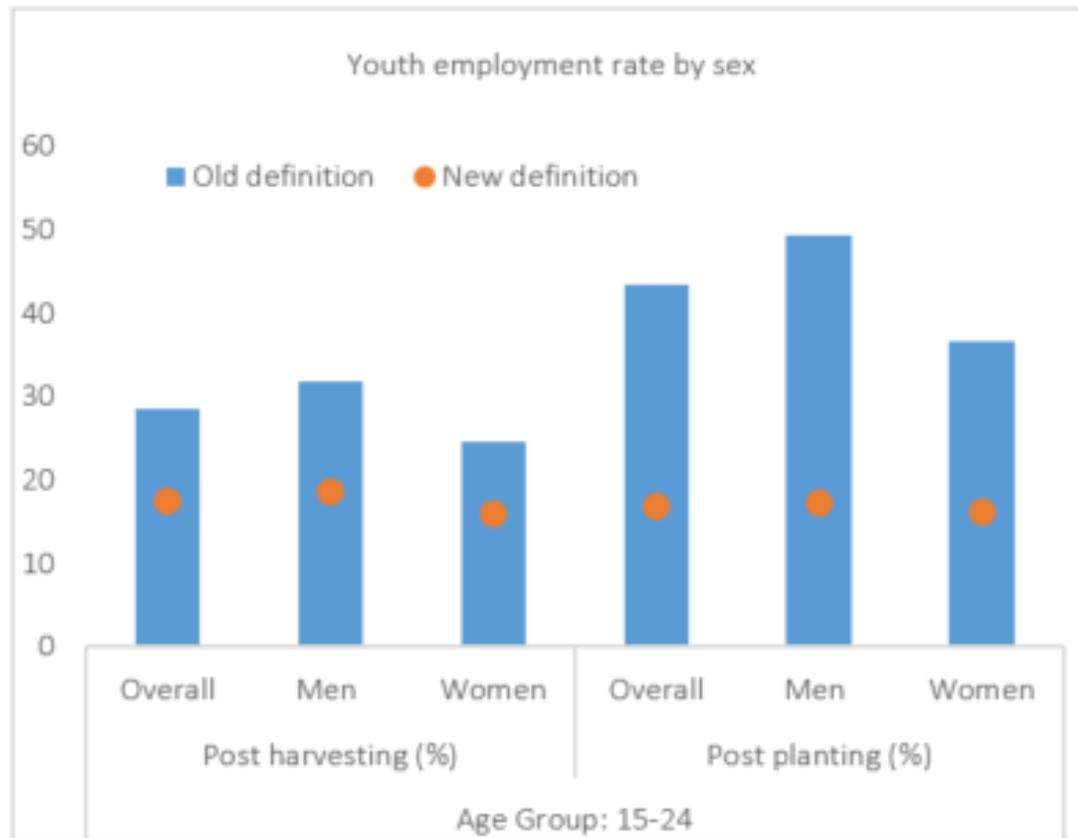
- DHS, few questions used in individual (men & women) questionnaires
- *E.g. 'Have you done **any work** in the last 7 days/12 months?' and 'What is **your occupation**? That is, what kind of work do you mainly do?'*
- Concerns: 'work' can be either paid/unpaid 'activity'

## 3. Stylized questions

- LSMS(-ISA) & LFS
- *E.g. 'In the last 7 days have you worked for **someone who is not a hh member**?/have you **worked on farm owned by hh member**?/have you worked **on your own account**?' (Nigeria 2016)*
- Concerns: it does not include unpaid domestic and care work (i.e. child or elderly caring)
- **Intention** of the products for hh farming and non-farm hh business (for now only in Malawi 2017 and Nigeria 2016)

# New or old “employment” definition in Nigeria (2016)?

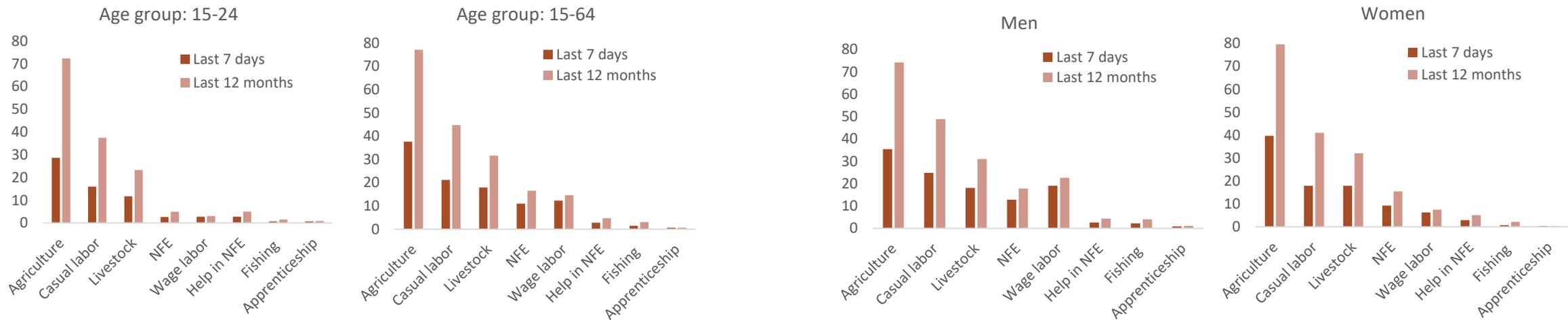
The employment rate in Nigeria (2015/16) by age and sex according to the 'old' and 'new' definition of employment



Employment is captured over 7-days period in both seasons

# Two reference periods: 7-day or 12-month in Malawi (2017)?

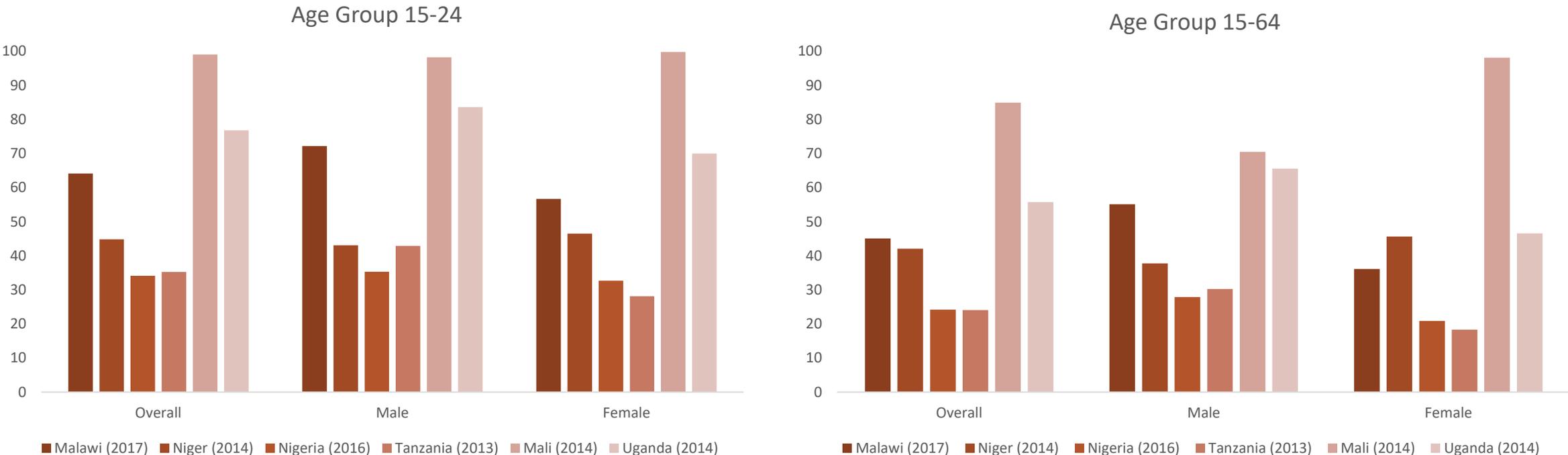
The percentage of Malawi's population engaged in a specific activity by reference period, age and sex 2016/17



7-day reference period can accurately recall details without capturing seasonality

# Proxy or self-respondent in LSMS-ISA surveys?

Rate of Proxy Respondent Use for Individual-Level Labor Data Collection in LSMS-ISA



# How and what will we measure in a changing labor market

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- Setting short, medium and long-term objectives for the labor module in LSMS-ISA surveys
- Objectives will be further discussed in the next sessions
- We only offer some tentative suggestions based on our review of current approaches

# Short-term objectives

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1. Existing datasets can be used to learn about critical survey design features
  - Relatively little research on the impact of specific survey design features on labor market statistics
  - Variation within surveys and between different waves of the same survey can be leveraged to learn about survey design (e.g. Fox, 2013 & examples in our paper)
  - Can be used to decide where 'real' methodological survey experiments would pay off
2. Revise the labor module so that all labor market SDGs are captured
3. Adapt the surveys to the new definition of employment (**session 2**)
4. Consider aligning the surveys with ICSE-18 and the (new) ICSaW
5. Retrospective questions (School-to-work transition, Job transitions, Long-term trends)

# Medium & long term objectives

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1. Refine and develop methods to capture unpaid domestic and care work (Session 5)
  - With stylized questions?
  - By adding a time diary?
  - By adding an activity list?
2. How to deal with formal/informal employment in surveys?
  - Many question required on wage employment to distinguish formal from informal employment, but these questions are skipped by most respondents
3. Including new topics in LSMS-ISA surveys
  - Skills? (Session 4)

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Thank you!