

Partnership for Capacity Development in Household Surveys for Welfare Analysis

Designing Household Surveys to Measure Poverty

November 27 – December 1, 2017

Perugia, Italy

COURSE SYLLABUS

Overview

The course is the first module in a larger training program aimed at increasing the capacity of statisticians and officials from public institutions, including national statistical offices and central banks, to design and implement household surveys. The program adopts a “training of trainers” approach, directly targeting instructors from regional statistical training institutions. The program will subsequently support the regional training centers as they train national statisticians, to generate substantial improvements in the capacity of the statistical offices and other relevant institutions to conduct, analyze and disseminate high-quality household surveys. Ultimately, strengthening regional statistical training programs in household surveys will increase the sustainability of household survey systems around the world by increasing the capacity of national statistics offices and reducing their reliance on external technical assistance.

This first course module focuses on “Designing Household Surveys to Measure Poverty and Wellbeing” in low- and middle-income countries. The course covers key survey design decisions of relevance to household surveys for poverty analysis, focusing on those using consumption based measures of poverty. Besides general principles of questionnaire design, the course will introduce the main approaches to poverty measurement, and will be delivered in separate sections on survey and questionnaire design options for measuring food and non-food components of consumption expenditures, including durables, housing, health and education expenditures.

The course will present practical guidance for survey design based on the latest evidence from survey practice and survey methods research. For each of the main survey design choices the course will help trainees understand the pros and cons, the cost and logistical implications, and the effects of design choices on data quality. The teaching material will rely heavily on evidence coming from surveys implemented or methodological work conducted in low- and middle-income countries.

Objectives

The course aims to provide material to be integrated in household survey courses for advanced students in the regional statistical training centers. At the end of the course, the trainees are

expected to (1) have command of the most recent literature and evidence on designing household surveys to collect consumption expenditure in low- and middle-income countries, and (2) be able to upgrade their existing household survey courses with up-to-date material on designing effective consumption expenditure modules for poverty analysis.

Training methods

Lectures; group and individual exercises. As part of the exercise work, the trainees will be tasked to refine, adapt teaching material to fit the courses currently being thought in their institutions. The interactions with the C4D2-Training staff will continue after the course (remotely or face-to-face) to ensure the new material is integrated in the curricula.

Course materials

The course material comprises the presentations used in the lectures, the exercise materials, and a list of required and suggested readings.

Evaluation

No formal evaluation (e.g. grading) of trainees is foreseen. The trainees will receive a Certificate of Attendance upon completing the course. However, group and individual exercises will be used to assess how well the material is being absorbed.

Instructors and contacts

Instructors for the course are the World Bank staff and other professional with extensive experience developing and implementing household surveys for poverty analysis. For information on the course contact c4d2@worldbank.org.

Course Outline

DAY 1 Morning

Household Surveys & the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the universal, integrated and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets. This session will discuss the current global agenda on household surveys in the context of the demands for data associated with Agenda 2030. The session will focus in particular on indicators related to poverty, inequality, and health.

- SDG indicators and tiers
- Types of household surveys and how they can serve the SDG agenda
- Mapping SDGs to household surveys, with a focus on SDGs 1,2, and 10
- SDG Health indicators

DAY 1 Afternoon

Designing Household Surveys to Measurement Poverty

Surveys are designed to provide data to respond to specific topics of interest. This has implications in the way surveys are designed and implemented. It is therefore important that participants have a better understanding of the different types of surveys existing in the national statistical system and their main purpose.

- Types of surveys: Specialized, multi-purpose, add-ons, etc.
Examples: LSMS, HBS, DHS, MICS, LFS, CWQ etc.
- Uses, pros and cons
- Examples of multi-topic household survey questionnaires

DAY 2 Morning

Approaches to the Measurement of Poverty

The session will highlight the links between poverty measures, the pros and cons of different approaches, and the corresponding requirements in terms of survey design.

- Absolute measures -- cost of basic needs, food energy intake
- Relative measures – societal poverty. attributes of national poverty lines
- Monetary measures: Consumption, Income and Assets; International poverty line
- Extensions to counting the poor – depth of poverty, shared prosperity
- Non-Monetary measures: health, education, infrastructure; Multi-dimensional poverty

DAY 2 Afternoon

Principles of Questionnaire Design

Proper measurement of poverty requires proper design of the questionnaire. This session will present some principles to be followed when designing questionnaires to collect household consumption expenditure.

- Asking the right questions
- Choosing the respondents
- Assuring comprehension
- Designing the flow
- Assuring response
- Recording the answers
- Reality checking
- Examples of multi-topic household survey questionnaires
- Testing the questionnaire

DAY 3 Morning

Measuring Food Consumption (Part 1)

This session will present some key principles to be followed when designing questionnaires to collect household food consumption expenditure.

- Consumption and expenditure data, purpose
- Recall, diaries
- Reference period, Telescoping
- Comprehensiveness and specificity of food list
- Respondent burden, non-response, and meta data

DAY 3 Afternoon

Measuring Food Consumption (Part 2)

This session will cover survey design issues related: (i) Collecting data on food acquisition and consumption; (ii) Accounting for partakers (meal participation by household and non-household members); and (iii) Considerations in deciding the timing and number of visits/rounds.

- Acquisition and consumption
- Accounting for partakers
- Single vs. multiple visits
- Capturing seasonality

DAY 4 Morning

Measuring Food Consumption (Part 3)

This session will cover the conceptual underpinnings of food away from home (FAFH); the overview of findings from the recent methodological survey experiments on the measurement of FAFH in low- and middle-income countries; and the emerging recommendations for household survey data collection on FAFH. The session will also equip participants with the importance of and best practices in the use of non-standard measurement units for food consumption measurement in household surveys, and the recommendation for designing and implementing a market survey necessary for deriving kilogram-equivalent conversion factors for non-standard unit-food item combinations.

- Food away from home
- Non-standard units

DAY 4 Afternoon

Measuring Non-Food Expenditure

This session will present key principles to be followed when designing questionnaires to collect household non-food consumption expenditure.

- Education expenditure
- Housing and rentals
- Assets and durables
- Other non-food components

DAY 5 Morning

Measuring Wealth and Income in a High-Income Country: An Introduction

- Wealth and poverty measures in Italy

Reading List

[Readings marked (*) are identified as resources that should ideally be read before the start of the training week]

Consumption data and poverty measures

(*) Deaton, A., and Salman, Z. (2002). "Guidelines for Constructing consumption aggregates for welfare analysis." World Bank LSMS Working Paper No. 135. Available at: <https://goo.gl/csbtRp>.

(*) Deaton, A. and Grosh, M. (2000). Consumption, in M. Grosh and P. Glewwe (Eds.), *Designing household survey questionnaires for developing countries: Lessons from 15 years of the Living Standards Measurement Surveys*, Washington, D.C.: World Bank. <https://goo.gl/CQamK1>.

Beegle, K., De Weerd, J., Friedman, J., and Gibson, J. (2012) "Methods of household consumption measurement through surveys: experimental results from Tanzania." *Journal of Development Economics*, 98.1, pp. 3–18. Available at: <https://goo.gl/HUaaSt>.

Jolliffe, D. (2001). "Measuring absolute and relative poverty: the sensitivity of estimated household consumption to survey design." *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*, 27.1-2, pp. 1–23. <https://goo.gl/UKG5rM>.

Haughton, J. H., and Shahidur R. K. (2009). *Handbook on poverty and inequality*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at: <https://goo.gl/VemFJy>.

Food consumption: Overview

(*) Smith L., Dupriez O., and Troubat N. (2014). "Assessment of the reliability and relevance of the food data collected in national household consumption and expenditure surveys." *International Household Survey Network*. Available at: <http://www.ihsn.org/food>.

Food consumption: Meal participation

Fiedler, J. L., and Mwangi, D. M. (2016). *Improving household consumption and expenditure surveys' food consumption metrics: developing a strategic approach to the unfinished agenda*. Washington, DC: IFPRI. (Section 8 on meal participation.) Available at: <https://goo.gl/mk7XJj>.

Food consumption: Seasonality

D'Souza, A., and Jolliffe, D. (2012). "Rising food prices and coping strategies: household-level evidence from Afghanistan." *Journal of Development Studies*, 48, pp. 282–299. Available at: <https://goo.gl/qsWK94>. Working paper version: <https://goo.gl/u9y3RY>.

Jolliffe, D., and Serajuddin, U., (Forthcoming). "Noncomparable poverty comparisons." *Journal of Development Studies*. Available at: <https://goo.gl/tXqGB9>. Working paper version: <https://goo.gl/dEkMV5>.

Food consumption: Timing of survey visits

Nathalie T., and Grünberger. K. (2017). "Impact of survey design in the estimation of habitual food consumption: a study based on urban households of Mongolia." *Food Policy*, 72, pp. 132-145. Available at: <https://goo.gl/YAEpYV>.

Food Away from Home (FAFH)

Farfan, G., Genoni, M. E., and Vakis, R. (2017). "You are what (and where) you eat: capturing food away from home in welfare measures." *Food Policy*, 72, pp. 146-156. Available at: <https://goo.gl/Qk3nRt>.

Smith, L. C. (2015). "The great Indian calorie debate: explaining rising undernourishment during India's rapid economic growth." *Food Policy*, 50, pp. 53-67. Available at: <https://goo.gl/xDC8d6>.

Food consumption: Non-Standard Measurement Units

Oseni, M., Durazo, J., and McGee, K. (2017). "The use of non-standard units for the collection of food quantity a guidebook for improving the measurement of food consumption and agricultural production in living standards surveys." Washington, DC: World Bank. Available at: <https://goo.gl/UXW6J9>.

Measuring Wealth and Income

OECD (2013), *OECD Guidelines for Micro Statistics on Household Wealth*, OECD Publishing. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264194878-en>.