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HOUSEHOLD DATA REQUIREMENTS

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Introduction	1 - 4
The needs for inter-related data	5 - 11
Household survey topics and items	12 - 13
Survey programmes	14 - 29
Annex I - Household survey topics and items	

INTRODUCTION

1. The simplest and most convenient starting point for examining household data requirements is provided by the United Nations Handbook of Household Surveys, Series F, No. 10, which was published in 1964 to serve as a practical guide for inquiries on levels of living.
2. Other United Nations documents in which ideas concerning the integrated collection and utilisation of household data have been further developed are as follows:
 - A Draft System of Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation, E/CN.3/425.
 - Problems and Methods of Building a System of Demographic Statistics and Compiling the Required Data, ST/CES/22.
 - Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics, ST/STAT.68.
 - Priorities for Development Statistics, ST/STAT.60 (outline).
3. When the eighth session of the Conference of African Statisticians agreed in November 1973 that the establishment of ongoing household survey programmes should be given high priority as a follow-up activity to the African Census Programme, the ECA Executive Secretary established an African Household Surveys Programme Steering Committee.
4. The Committee recommended that the present paper should begin with a review of the needs for inter-related data, as known at the present time, and lead on to an indication of survey topics and items, showing some of the various

combinations that might be used in programmes of surveys. It took the view that, while it is not too difficult to organise integrated programmes of data collection oriented to particular national requirements, it will take some time to develop effective integrated analytical arrangements.

THE NEEDS FOR INTER-RELATED DATA

5. The International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade calls for a unified approach to economic and social development. The long-run outcome of development efforts is reflected in the living conditions of individual households which derive from the effective productive capacity of household members. The latter is itself dependant on inter-related demographic, social and economic factors.

6. In the African situation, many of the relevant data can be collected only directly from households. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken in this connection, but African surveys have usually been ad hoc economic or demographic inquiries not forming parts of integrated programmes of data collection and analysis. As a result, there have been constraints on the utilisation of the data collected.

7. The African Census Programme is making an important contribution to the improvement of demographic data and it is also evident that countries which have recently completed population and agricultural censuses are anxious to develop other aspects of household information. It is therefore necessary to work out survey programmes whose results can be fully utilised in the development process.

8. Perhaps the first consideration in this respect is the extent to which the various household topics are inter-related. The matter is discussed in general terms in the Handbook of Household Surveys and specific aspects and dealt with in more detail in the United Nations System of National Accounts, the system of income distribution statistics and the proposed new system of social and demographic statistics. For the purposes of the present paper it may be sufficient to examine the following list of topics which comprises the relevant chapter headings of the Handbook:

- Demographic characteristics
- Health
- Food consumption and nutrition
- Housing conditions and facilities
- Educational characteristics and cultural activities
- Employment
- Economic level of the household.

9. These topics can be arranged in 21 possible pairs. If they are considered on this basis, it is clear that there is nearly always a significant causal relationship between the two topics in each pair. Only for the following three pairs does it seem likely that such a relationship might not necessarily exist:

Food consumption	Housing
Food consumption	Education and culture
Housing	Education and culture.

Even in these cases it is probable that causal relationships could be established.

10. It seems reasonable to conclude that there are rather strong links between the majority of the factors which affect household levels of living, but this contributes no guidance in respect of data analysis. Any attempt to single out specific factors, particularly the economic and demographic ones, for consideration would involve ignoring important environmental and other factors and would probably lead to analytical arrangements inconsistent with the development requirements of particular countries.

11. Analysis of the large amount of inter-related data that can be obtained from households should preferably be considered in the context of a comprehensive data framework. For national accounts and related branches of economic statistics, the framework already exists and can be used in a selective manner in the light of national priorities. In the demographic and social field, the fundamental concepts of an integrated system have already been widely discussed and some guidance is available in terms of standardised definitions and classifications. However it is likely that demographic and social data will have to be incorporated in overall statistical analysis by rather ad hoc means for some time to come. This has the advantage of enabling a great deal of useful experimental work to be conducted before constraints are applied in the form of internationally agreed recommendations.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY TOPICS AND ITEMS

12. Bearing in mind the essentially integrated nature of all household information, it is now necessary to attempt a specification of the data items that might be involved. The Handbook of Household Surveys is again used as the principal source, although it is appreciated that later documents have added more detail without significantly changing the basic concepts.

13. The items listed in Annex I are a summary version of the recommendations in the Handbook. Annotations are attributable to the ECA secretariat.

SURVEY PROGRAMMES

14. The objects in reproducing the above material from the Handbook of Household Surveys are to provide a check list of the principal survey items and a basis for determining the main components of household survey programmes. A review of the list leads to the following considerations:

- (1) Except in unusual situations, African household surveys would normally incorporate a preliminary enumeration of households. In addition to providing a frame for the ultimate sampling stage, this enumeration can also be used for obtaining:
 - (a) basic information on demographic, economic and social characteristics, which is useful in itself and may also be needed in interpreting the survey results;
 - (b) data required for stratification of the household sample;
 - (c) basic housing information, even though this topic may be investigated in more detail in the ultimate sample of households.

- (2) Internal migration, fertility and mortality form a group of topics which can conveniently be investigated together. A fairly large sample of households drawn from those listed in the preliminary enumeration would normally be involved.
- (3) Health, employment, education and cultural activities are another group of topics for which data could possibly be collected simultaneously. The sampling arrangements would be a little different from those applicable to (2) because of high intra-class correlation.
- (4) Inquiries dealing with the economic level of households call for smaller samples than those in (2) or (3), but records for individual households need to be maintained over relatively long periods. These inquiries must incorporate data on household enterprises and more detailed investigation of food consumption can be included on a sub-sample basis. It may be necessary to deal with urban and rural areas separately.

15. Very crudely, and bearing in mind that there are many possible variations, the four kinds of field operation indicated above might be regarded as the main components of household survey programmes. However, it has to be borne in mind that no country is going to set up a permanent field survey organisation only for the purpose of conducting household surveys. The field organisation will also be expected to deal with other statistical work involving the collection of data direct from enterprises or the public. The principal items appear to be as follows:

- (5) Collection of producer and retail prices.
- (6) Non-household industrial, employment and distribution inquiries.
- (7) Agricultural censuses and surveys.
- (8) Internal transport.

16. Item (7), agriculture, obviously poses a number of problems and has been included in the list only for the sake of completeness. Most countries have extensive agricultural organisations which are used for census activities and the collection of current production data. Agriculture statistics may therefore continue to develop separately from other branches of statistics. However, it should be noted that provision for recording the economic transactions of the farming community is in any case included under item (4).

17. A few other points should perhaps be recorded as basic considerations with respect to ongoing programmes of surveys:

- (1) In Africa, people tend to be rather mobile and household listings become out-dated rather quickly. The enumeration exercise described in (1) above therefore has to be repeated at fairly frequent intervals throughout the survey programme. This is no great disadvantage because the work is inexpensive once a permanent field organisation has been established and the enumerations can provide a great deal of useful current data as a by-product.

- (2) For simplicity, no mention was made earlier of the frame within which household enumerations are likely to be undertaken. In most cases, area units will be used, based on the geographical organisation of a recent population census. Almost the only viable exception is in urban areas, where complete lists of housing units may provide a desirable alternative to the sampling of blocks. It should be noted that many previous surveys have been based on lists of taxpayers, etc.; these are normally incomplete and the practice should be discouraged.
 - (3) A number of countries may wish to develop civil registration schemes while conducting demographic surveys. This would lead to some modification of the general observation made in item (2) of paragraph 14.
 - (4) Only a few countries in Africa have so far developed field survey resources to the point where surveys of national coverage are possible. Other countries may have to develop field organisations on a gradual basis, which means that surveys may have to deal with geographic regions in succession. This question is considered in a separate paper on the development of permanent field organisations. The present paper is concerned only with survey programmes of national coverage.
 - (5) The first chapter of the Handbook of Household Surveys recommends that household survey records should distinguish between household members present at the time of the survey, household members temporarily absent, and visitors. This enables results to be assembled on a de jure or de facto basis, without any commitment to the form of the eventual analysis at the time of data collection. The recommendation should clearly be supported in the case of household surveys where records do not extend over a long period. However, it is unlikely to be practicable in surveys of household transactions. For these, the alternative is to maintain a continuous record of changes in household composition and to treat the results on a de facto basis only.
 - (6) In respect of foodstuffs and some other items, the sampling variance for consumption is less than that in respect of production. Production can therefore be estimated more precisely from consumption records, provided there are national coverage or internal movements of products are known.
18. The next requirement is to give some indication of how the various components discussed in paragraphs 14 and 15 might be incorporated in ongoing survey programmes.
19. It seems fairly clear that an enumeration of population, normally in a sample of area units, should be envisaged as an annual exercise. Its purposes would be the provision of a frame for the selection of a household sample to be investigated in more detail and the collection of general information.

20. The detailed inquiry in any given year could deal with demographic characteristics, social characteristics, or the economic level of households along the lines indicated in items (2)-(4) of paragraph 14. If it were decided to collect household economic data in separate urban and rural surveys, the basic field programme would consist of a four-year repetitive cycle of operations.

21. There are of course many possible variations on this theme which have to be determined in the light of national priorities. In particular, it may be worth noting that the arrangement is somewhat different from that adopted in developed countries, where "employment status" and related factors appear to be the central considerations in household inquiries. In Africa, it is doubtful whether they should have the same predominance at a time when it is necessary to gather reasonably comprehensive information on economic and social structures and the activities within these structures.

22. In relation to any kind of continuing survey programme, it is tempting to think in terms of partial sample replacement to ensure better continuity in recording and more accurate estimates of short-term changes. However, the arrangement may not be useful in a situation where the subjects investigated change significantly from year to year and where each subject may require somewhat different sampling arrangements. It is also necessary to bear in mind the mobility of African households noted in paragraph 17 (1) which would make it difficult to organise any kind of partial replacement arrangement at the household level over a reasonably long period. Continuity requirements should perhaps be viewed in terms of the first-stage area sample which, with some size differences, could be common to all household inquiries and be changed on a gradual basis.

23. Another important consideration relates to the recording arrangements to be used in household economic surveys. In urban areas, it seems practicable to maintain records of transactions over a period of one month, and the investigation of sub-samples of households should preferably be spread over a complete year. This does not lead to too many difficulties, bearing in mind that seasonal variations are less noticeable in urban areas and indications of household income are fairly readily available. The position is different in rural areas and the Handbook of Household Surveys recommends that records for individual households should extend over a whole year. This can and has been done through the use of a summary transactions schedule maintained through weekly visits, plus more detailed recording on a sub-sample basis. The point to be borne in mind is that the arrangement is a severe constraint on the overall number of households that can be included in the sample and its only real advantage is to give a more satisfactory measure of the income of individual households, with better indicators of rural household income, sample replacement might be possible on a monthly basis with consequent reduction in survey costs.

24. The foregoing points with respect to sample design have been mentioned because they arise directly from the consideration of possible survey topics and the way in which programmes of surveys can be organised, which is the purpose of the present paper. Relevant sampling methodology and the establishment of field organisations needed for conducting the inquiries are examined in more detail in separate papers.

25. It now remains to look at the possibility of incorporating the non-household inquiries mentioned in paragraph 15 in the overall survey programme.

26. Price data have to be collected on a continuing basis, so the probability is that staff for this purpose have to be added to the field organisation, even though some of the work could possibly be carried out by household survey enumerators. There is the further thought that rather accurate retail price data can be derived from household consumption expenditure records, but its analysis normally takes too long for it to be of current use.

27. The industrial and employment inquiries with which survey organisations might be concerned are those conducted on an annual basis. Because these data collection operations are discontinuous, there would clearly be advantages if they could be incorporated, at least to a limited extent, in the work programmes of the household survey supervisors.

28. Internal transport could be regarded as a possible alternative topic for investigation in one year of the survey cycle described above. Transport data are useful in interpreting household enterprise records, particularly in the field of agriculture, because they show where the products of each area are consumed.

29. The physical aspects of agricultural production are not considered in this paper. Following the comment in paragraph 16 it is assumed that they will be the responsibility of the ministry concerned.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY TOPICS AND ITEMS

Demographic characteristics

For household as a unit:

- Location
- Number of members present
- Number of members temporarily absent
- Number of temporary visitors
- Number of births which occurred during past 12 months, by sex
- Number of deaths which occurred during past 12 months, by age and sex.

For each household member:

- Name
- Relationship to head of household
- Age
- Marital status
- Sex
- Ethnic origin
- Place of residence at a specified date in past.

For each woman in the household:

- Number of children born during last 12 months, by sex
- Number of male and female children born alive during lifetime and number now living.

Health

Illness during the last 14 days:

- Nature of illness(es)
- Duration of illness (during the last 14 days)
- Days (during the last 14 days) when sickness prevented participation in usual activity.

Injury during the last 14 days:

- Nature of injury(ies)
- External cause
- Days (during the last 14 days) when injury prevented participation in usual activity.

Health care visits:

- Number of visits during the last 14 days, by place of visit
- Type of services rendered
- Date of last visit (if before the last 14 days) stating the place of visit.

Hospitalization during the last 12 months:

Number of admissions
Duration of hospitalization.

Impairments:

Nature.

Cost:

Method of meeting cost of drugs and medical appliances prescribed
by a doctor or those under his supervision
Method of meeting hospital expenses
Method of meeting doctors' fees.

Food consumption and nutrition:

Household characteristics:

Number of persons in the household (household members)
Age and sex of each member of the household, and other personal
characteristics needed for the determination of nutritional
requirements
Farm/non-farm status and rural/urban living
Income or other measure of the financial status of the household.

Food consumed from the common supply (quantity and value, distinguishing
the following sources: (1) purchased, (2) home production, (3) otherwise
obtained):

Cereals and cereal products
Starches and starchy roots
Sugars and sweets
Pulses (dry)
Nuts
Seeds
Vegetables
Fruit
Meat and meat products, poultry and insects
Eggs
Fish and shellfish
Milk and dairy products (excluding butter)
Oils and fats
Miscellaneous
Prepared or partially prepared mixtures of food and prepared meals
obtained outside and consumed at home (specify)
Beverages.

Purchased foods eaten away from home.

Note: The methods of recording recommended are: (1) acquired,
with allowance for change in stocks, (2) used.

The classification of food items differs slightly from
that in the section dealing with economic level of the household.

Housing conditions and facilities

Basic questions:

Number of persons in the household
Does the household occupy the whole of a housing unit ?
If not (a) how many households share the housing unit ?
(b) the number of persons in each of the households sharing
the housing unit

Class of housing unit occupied

Number of rooms (a) in the housing unit, (b) occupied by the
household exclusively, (c) shared with other households

Water supply installation in the housing unit

Toilet facilities available to the household.

Additional questions:

Tenure of the accommodation
Ownership of the premises occupied by the household
Rent paid, or other costs of occupation
Cooking facilities
Bathing facilities
Source of energy available to the household for cooking,
lighting, heating
Kind of heating
Household conveniences
Characteristics of building occupied by the household
Location of the accommodation in relation to the place of work
of the head of the household.

Note: The recommendations express some concern with the
collection of data from households because housing information
should relate to housing units.

Educational characteristics and cultural activities

School attendance
Literacy
Educational attainment
Distance from school
Distance from cultural institutions
Subscriptions to newspapers and other periodicals
Radio and television receivers
Number of books borrowed through public library system
Weekly time spent on cultural and recreational activities
Annual expenditure on educational, cultural and recreational
activities
Sports
Hobbies
Annual vacation, recreational travel.

Note: The recommendations do not distinguish clearly between
information applicable to the household as a unit and that
relating to individual persons.

Employment

General:

Sex, age, marital status, relationship to head of the household,
address (urban/rural)

Minimum details:

Whether he worked last week, or has a job but did not work
Whether he is without a job, seeking or wanting work
Industry in which engaged now, or in last job
Status (as employer, employee, etc.) now, or in last job
Normal or scheduled hours (or days) of work per week
(employed persons only)
Engaged in household enterprise, or engaged in non-household
enterprise

Additional details:

Type of employing establishment
Number of employees (employers only)
Stability of present job
Secondary occupation performed
Time actually worked in reference week
Seasonal variations in time worked (persons employed whole of
last year)
Reason for short-time worked during the reference week (only persons
who worked under 35 hours or less than five days)
Looked for more hours of work (ditto)
Wanted more hours of work (ditto)
Kind of job sought (unemployed persons)
Duration of unemployment
Average monthly earnings from enterprise (own-account workers only)
Average weekly wages/salary last month (employees with jobs only)
Migration for employment.

Economic level of the household

General items:

Household:

Nature of economic activity, business, farm, etc., carried on
at this address and name of person in charge.

For each person in the household (including members temporarily
absent, visitors and others present):

Presence (number of days) or absence (zero days of presence)
during the reporting period for food consumption data; number of
main meals taken in the household during period of presence
indicated; economic status (income receiver or dependent);
educational level (optional); ethnic or tribal group, or
religion of head (optional).

Characteristics of housing unit occupied by the sample household and housing costs paid by the occupier:

Number of rooms occupied; nature of tenure (owner-occupied, rented, etc.) and basis of lease or rental - furnished, partly furnished or unfurnished; rental (gross) paid at present for the housing unit with attached facilities and services (specify whether garage, electricity, telephone or other items are included); rent received by occupier for rooms, garage, or other facilities sublet; additional charges paid by occupier: fees or local taxes, water charges, cost of heating, etc.; occupier's expenditure during last ... months on painting, repairs, etc. and installation of equipment.

Income data:

Money income of the household members (net after payment of personal income tax):

Wages, salaries and related receipts
Money income from owned or jointly owned business or farm
(including self-employment)
Income from rents, investments, etc., including interest on savings and bonds, etc.
Pensions, remittances and cash allowances (received from outside the household)
Royalties, fees and similar receipts
Other periodic cash receipts in the nature of income (e.g. receipts from boarders or lodgers, alimony, scholarships, etc.).

Non-monetary household income (valued at retail prices):

Food, ordinary clothing, housing, etc. provided by employers
Goods for consumption transferred to the household free of charge by a self-employed household member or by a household enterprise
Goods for consumption received from other sources
Net rental value of owner-occupied housing unit
Value of purchasing concessions.

Consumption expenditure:

Food and drink:

Cereals and cereal products
Starchy roots and starches
Sugars and sweets
Pulses
Nuts
Seeds
Vegetables
Fruits
Meat and meat products, game
Poultry
Eggs
Fish and shellfish

Milk and dairy products
Oils and fats
Alcoholic beverages
Non-alcoholic beverages
Meals and refreshments away from home and prepared meals purchased
for consumption at home
Others, including spices, yeast, etc.

Housing:

Rent (including community taxes and water charges)
Fuel, light and heating
Furniture, furnishings, household equipment, etc.
Repairs and redecoration
Other household expenses, including fire, etc. insurance.

Clothing:

Clothing and footwear (including repairs)
Other personal effects.

Miscellaneous:

Medical care
Personal care
Education
Recreation, vacations (n.e.c.), reading material, entertainments
Transport
Telephone and postage
Laundry, cleaning materials and other miscellaneous household
operation expenses
Domestic help
Tobacco
Contributions to professional societies, church, etc.
Other expenditure on goods and services (e.g. legal fees, funeral
expenses, etc.).

Disposal of household money income:

Total outlay on goods and services for household consumption
during the balancing period (same as household consumption expenditure
above, but with hire-purchase payments during balancing period only
and excluding the value of income in kind)

Other household money expenditure:

Social security contributions
Life insurance premiums, superannuation contributions
Purchases on behalf of other households and cash transfers to
other households
Fines, fees, charges, etc.
Interest paid; repayments on loans, mortgages, etc.; other fixed
payments by household members not included under consumption
expenditure
Cost of alterations and additions to housing unit
Expenditure not elsewhere specified.

Income from household enterprise:

Particulars of the enterprise:

Address
 Name of person in charge
 List of owners, co-sharers, partners by name and home address, and percentage share (or fixed amount) due to each from the profits
 Persons currently working in the enterprise (numbers): total; owners, co-sharers, etc.; employees on wages (including piece-rate workers); members of households of owners, co-sharers, etc.
 Number working in the enterprise at the peak season (total)
 Nature of enterprise and principal products or service
 Farming enterprises: area cultivated (by type of crop); present number of livestock (by species).

Consumption goods transferred from the enterprise to the households of owners, co-sharers or partners (separate details for each household):

Item	Quantity	Amount (if any) charged to enterprise account	Value at local retail prices (for office use)
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Services provided to households and paid by the enterprise (separate details for each household):

Item	Total cost per month or quarter, etc.	Allocation of cost	
		To household	To enterprise

Money receipts and expenditures paid by the enterprise:

Money receipts:

Received in respect of goods purchased for resale
 Received in respect of goods produced or processed by the enterprise
 Amount charged for services rendered or work done by the enterprise
 Other business receipts.

Business operating expenses paid in money:

Cost of raw materials and semi-finished goods bought for processing, etc.
 Cost of goods bought for resale
 Expenditure on miscellaneous business supplies
 Rent, leasehold and similar fixed charges paid in cash
 Fuel, electricity, gas, petrol, water, etc.
 Cost of hire and repair of equipment, transport charges paid and other miscellaneous expenses
 Interest paid on business loans
 Business taxes, licences, accountants' fees and other service charges

Repairs to buildings, maintenance charges
Wages paid to employees (excluding drawings of owners,
co-sharers, etc.)
Allowances to family helpers (ditto).

Estimate by owner, co-sharer or partner of amount of profits (optional).

Note: It is not clear why the general items include receipts and payments in respect of housing when provision for them is also made under the income and expenditure headings.

Respondents might find it difficult to distinguish between household and enterprise transactions as precisely as implied by the list of items. A simpler and more consolidated kind of budget questionnaire may have to be used, particularly for households in rural areas.