



---

## **JOINT IAOS/AFSA CONFERENCE**

Addis Ababa, 22-24 May 1995

IAOS/AFSA/IS.1/04

21655

***Managing Development in the 1990s  
and Beyond: New Trends in Statistics***

### **INVITED SESSION 1: STATISTICS AND INDICATORS FOR MEASURING DEVELOPMENT**

**POLICY AND TECHNICAL ISSUES AFFECTING  
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS IN THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

By

**Parmeet SINGH**

**ADDIS ABABA  
MAY 1995**

---

JOINT IAOS/AFSA CONFERENCE  
ADDIS ABABA, 22-24 MAY 1995

SESSION 1

STATISTICS AND INDICATORS FOR  
MEASURING DEVELOPMENT

POLICY AND TECHNICAL ISSUES AFFECTING  
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS IN THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

By

Parmeet Singh

---

April 1995

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
Summary . . . . .	3
Section	
I. Introduction . . . . .	4
II. Policy Issues . . . . .	5
III. Technical Issues . . . . .	9
IV. Conclusion . . . . .	14
V. Recommendations . . . . .	15
Table 1: Household Surveys conducted by Countries participating in NHSCP/AHSCP . . . . . 17	
Table 2: Countries undertaking the World Bank sponsored Living Standards Measurement Study and Social Dimensions of Adjustment Programme Surveys. . . . . 21	
Table 3: Countries undertaking the Demographic Health Surveys conducted by Macro International Corporation and sponsored by the USAID . . . . . 22	
Bibliography . . . . .	23

## SUMMARY

The session organizers have counselled the author to focus the paper on national issues and perspectives to answer the question *"What works, what doesn't, and Why?"*. The author has endeavoured to do so. In doing so he has had to refer to the significant role that "external programmes" have played in context of the policy and the technical issues which have affected household surveys in Sub-Saharan African countries.

Section II, on the policy issues, reviews issues of priorities in ascertaining the scope and content matter of household surveys. Section III considers the technical issues pertaining to the use of master samples and the need for adequate analysis and dissemination of data and preparation of integrated household survey data bases.

Section IV concludes the paper with the observation that "home-grown" surveys and survey programmes work in Africa. The author also details alternative arrangements for technical cooperation to substitute the National Household Survey Capability Programme, and the African Household Survey Capability Programme of the UN system, as a solution to facilitate home-grown survey initiatives and the resolution of policy and technical issues reviewed in the paper.

The recommendations of the paper are set out in Section V.

**JOINT IAOS/AFSA CONFERENCE  
ADDIS ABABA, 22-24 MAY, 1995**

**POLICY AND TECHNICAL ISSUES AFFECTING  
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS IN THE SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

By  
**PARMEET SINGH\***

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The author welcomes the opportunity that the paper has presented to reflect upon some aspects of the current status of household surveys in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Household surveys are an indispensable source of data, both economic and social, to compile indicators to measure development. Countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa have over the last 15 to 20 years invested a lot of effort in conducting these surveys. It is perceptive of the organizers of the session on "Statistics and Indicators for Measuring Development" to have requested the author to focus on policy and technical issues which have and are affecting the conduct of household surveys in the Sub-Saharan Africa. This is an opportunity for the author to crystallize his own perceptions on the status of household surveys in Africa. He is grateful for the invitation.

2. The session organizers have counselled the author to focus the paper on national issues and perspectives to answer the question, "What works, what doesn't work and why?".

3. While the author is partial to the proposition to focus on national issues, it has to be noted that external programmes have been very prominent in influencing development and conduct of household surveys in the Sub-Saharan Africa in the last 20 to 25 years, and are still doing so. Starting with the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) in 1979 and NHSCP's regional component, the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP), which in fact preceded NHSCP, these external programmes till the mid 80s also included demographic surveys conducted under various programmes sponsored by the USAID and the World Fertility Survey (WFS) Programme. NHSCP/AHSCP and the WFS Programme have now ceased to operate. Programmes currently operational include surveys promoted under the World Bank-sponsored Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) and under the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Programme; the Demographic Health

---

*\*/ The author is currently a Regional Adviser on Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems, in the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG) of UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). He joined ECA in July 1994. For nearly seven years prior to that, he was the Programme Coordinator of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) in the UN Statistical Division, New York.*

---

Surveys (DHSs), conducted by Macro International Corporation, on behalf of the USAID; and the on-going programme of demographic surveys being sponsored by UNFPA, as a part of its sector activities in the field of data collection and analysis. More recently, UNICEF has been active in promoting collection of data through household surveys needed to compile indicators to measure the goals which countries have set for themselves in their respective National Plans of Action (NPA) on Children and the Mid-Decade Goals (MDG) that the countries have committed themselves to, in the Declaration that was adopted by the World Summit on Children. All these external programmes have featured so prominently, that any discussion on policy and technical issues affecting household surveys in Africa would be incomplete without a mention of these programmes.

4. Section II and Section III of this paper deal with the policy and the technical issues respectively; Section IV concludes the paper; and Section V sets out the author's recommendations.

5. The three tables in this paper detail respectively surveys that have been undertaken by countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa which participated in NHSCP/AHSCP - Table 1; countries which have conducted the World Bank-sponsored, the LSMS and the SDA Programme surveys - Table 2; and countries in which the DHSs have been undertaken - Table 3. Additionally as noted above, UNICEF is actively promoting collection of data for social indicators to measure the NPA and the Mid-Decade goals in all countries of the region - but it is early to compile tabulated information on the status of this initiative. The three tables in this paper do not reflect a comprehensive coverage of household surveys that have been conducted in the Sub-Saharan Africa principally by the central statistical organizations (CSOs) of the respective countries. Piece-meal as it is, the information is nonetheless fairly representative of the countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa, as far as the scope and content matter of the household survey programmes that have been implemented by the countries are concerned. It provides the author with an adequate background to assess the policy and the technical issues affecting household surveys in the region.

6. Regrettably, with the cessation of AHSCP in 1992/93, there is now no central locus, at least within the UN system, monitoring the conduct of household surveys, as a whole, by the CSOs in the countries of the region.

## **II. POLICY ISSUES**

7. The three tables reflect an interesting contrast in the scope of the surveys covered by the three respective programmes. While the surveys conducted by the countries which have participated in NHSCP/AHSCP are quite diverse, the content matter of the DHSs has

---

been essentially narrowly restricted to collection of socio-demographic data; and the content matter of the LSMS surveys and the Priority Surveys (PS) and the Integrated Surveys (IS) conducted under the aegis of the World Bank sponsored initiatives is more diverse than the DHSSs, but less so than the surveys that have been conducted by countries which have participated in NHSCP/AHSCP. This difference in scope of data collection under the three programmes is borne out of the overall objectives of the programmes concerned. While NHSCP/AHSCP, as implicit in the title, endeavoured primarily to promote capability in the countries to undertake household surveys, as identified by the countries, the objective of the DHSSs is essentially to obtain data of programme interest to the USAID which has sponsored these surveys and mostly paid for them; and the LSMS surveys, the ISSs, and the PSSs undertaken have focused on data needs to monitor living standards à la LSMS, and measuring the impact of structural adjustment programmes on vulnerable groups in the countries implementing these programmes. The DHSSs and the LSMS surveys, the ISSs and the PSSs have of course also contributed to capability building, but as a secondary objective.

8. Most countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa have, since the early or the mid-1980s, experienced budgetary constraints. These constraints have affected data collection programmes of the CSOs, including implementation of their respective household survey programmes. The basic policy issue to emerge out of this situation of resource constraints, which the managements of the CSOs are having to deal with, has been one of priorities in data collection, including collection of data through household surveys.

9. In the extreme cases, where resource constraints have been severe, the only household surveys to have been undertaken in the last 10 to 15 years are those which have been sponsored by external sources. Most of these, as noted above, have had a prescribed focus of interest, like the DHSSs, the LSMS surveys, the ISSs and the PSSs. There are currently few instances of externally sponsored projects, whose primary objective is to promote statistical development per se, as opposed to collection of specific types of data. Statistical development projects funded under the technical assistance programme of the Government of Sweden in Tanzania, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, are an exception in this respect; as indeed is the World Bank funded project on "Rehabilitation of Statistics Department" in Uganda. There may be others, but the author feels not significant enough to change his assessment that such projects in the field of statistical development are now an exception and not the rule.

10. In the majority of the countries, however, although there have been budgetary cut backs, the CSOs have managed to retain some, though limited and significantly reduced, resources for their respective household survey programmes. While these CSOs are availing the facility of external sources to concentrate on surveys

like the DHSSs, the LSMS surveys, the ISSs, the PSSs, and UNFPA and UNICEF sponsored demographic and multiple indicator surveys respectively, their own resources are being deployed to undertake the more-conventional types of household surveys. These include mainly household budget surveys, inter-censal demographic surveys, labour force surveys and agricultural production surveys. It is important to note that while the titles of these conventional surveys might imply uni-subject coverage, they too are multi-subject surveys, but with a heavy focus on a central theme, and the range of the subjects covered is modest compared to the range of subjects covered in the DHSSs, the LSMS surveys, the ISSs and the PSSs.

11. Success of surveys such as the DHSSs, the LSMS surveys, the ISS and the PSSs, as far as the countries in which they have been conducted are concerned, will/can be assessed by the extent to which data obtained in these surveys is being utilized by the countries for programme and policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation purposes. There is some indication that this is so, but by and large, it is early to make a more definitive judgement. The data collected is being utilized - but perhaps more so externally than internally. This observation is based on the author's empirical judgement, and is a topic which could be evaluated more scientifically and thoroughly.

12. Another criterion of assessing the success of these surveys would be an indication of the extent to which the funding of such surveys is indigenized, as and when external funding phases out, and when that happens, whether these surveys then get incorporated into the regular domestically funded programme of household surveys.

13. Amongst the domestically funded surveys, the highest priority is accorded to the conventional types of household budget surveys, followed by inter-censal demographic surveys and labour force surveys. Regrettably, agriculture production surveys are the main casualty of the budgetary cut backs. This is confounding, given the significance of agriculture in the economies of the Sub-Saharan African countries.

14. Funding constraints apart, the other main constraints, that these surveys have run into, are the processing bottlenecks and the poor quality of data collected. As a result due to a combination of the two categories of problems, many of these surveys have failed to see the light of day.

15. The CSOs, it would seem to appear, need to be more discriminating in assessing the scope and complexity of the surveys and the size of the sample. They need to have capability to be able to convince both the domestic and the external users of data that the more modest survey designs will be able to meet user needs of data adequately; and by the same token, impress upon the users



the need for them to develop analytical skills which can exploit such data - of "apparently" limited scope, for applications for which they the users prescribe heavy and intensive survey designs.

16. The issue is one of priorities in the scope and the content of household surveys. This is a policy issue of immediate relevance to the managements of most of the CSOs - which have domestic resources available for household surveys. Those that do not have such resources and rely almost exclusively on external support unfortunately have little discretion.

17. Clearly, almost none of the CSOs in the Sub-Saharan Africa are likely in the foreseeable future to acquire or be given resources to absorb fully the household surveys, currently being funded externally, in their domestic budgets. As external funding gets phased out, the managements of these CSOs will need to ascertain how much of the data collection through household surveys, which was being funded externally, can be absorbed by the domestic budgets. This is a key emerging policy issue.

18. Surveys such as the DHSs, the LSMS surveys, the ISs and the PSs, are bound to have created some or fair levels of local demand. While this demand will need to be met, the conventional household budget surveys, the inter-censal demographic surveys, the labour force surveys and the agriculture production surveys will need to be undertaken and the data obtained through periodic censuses of population, enterprises and agriculture collected. These surveys and censuses constitute the main source of the economic and socio-demographic baseline and structural data, in the national data bases. Data collected for measurement of development is not a substitute for this data. Without the baseline and structural data, the data collected for measurement of development will build castles on foundations of sand.

19. The solution lies in developing surveys which, while essentially conventional in scope and coverage, are less ambitious in detail than their predecessors and do take account of data needs for most of the indicators which are required to monitor economic and social development. This is feasible. There are instances where such surveys have been developed and successfully implemented. One example is the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 1993/94, which is the source for data to be published in the report on *"Living Conditions in Namibia, 1993/94"*. Another example, from the distant past, is the Integrated Rural Surveys (IRSS) which were conducted in the second half of the 1970's by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Kenya. While measurement of crop areas and yields and household expenditure constituted the core of IRSSs, these surveys were also used to collect a range of data to compile social indicators. There may be considerable merit in revisiting this experience. Similarly, the Programme of Integrated Household Surveys (IHSs) recently implemented by the Statistics Department of Uganda, included

modules on prices, informal sector enterprises, and agricultural production. A Workshop of Producers and Users of Data, recently convened by the Statistics Department of Uganda has recommended that the Programme of IHSS "be continued with agriculture as the core subject".<sup>1/</sup>

20. More recently, the data required for indicators to measure goals in the National Plans of Action on Children and the Mid-Decade Goals on Children adopted by the World Summit on Children, is being obtained, interestingly enough, in some countries by piggy backing the various modules in the Indicator Monitoring Survey Questionnaire, developed by UNICEF Headquarters, to on-going surveys. Modules of interest, for example in Swaziland, have been piggy backed to the Survey on Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases being undertaken by the Ministry of Health; in Zambia these modules have been piggy backed to the core survey of the Food, Health and Nutrition Information System that has been developed by the CSO; in Uganda through the forthcoming DHS; and the author has counselled the Bureau of Statistics in Lesotho to piggy-back the relevant modules to the Household Budget Survey currently underway.

21. This development of indigenously evolved survey instruments to collect the data required to measure economic and social development is a compromise between the conventional survey programmes consisting in the main, on the one hand, of household budget surveys, inter-censal demographic surveys, labour force surveys and agricultural production surveys and, on the other, the monitoring surveys currently being spearheaded by various external sources. Domestic need for data and availability of resources are the point of reference, and more effective arrangements for consultations between users and producers of data will certainly facilitate the evolution of such a compromise.

### III. TECHNICAL ISSUES

22. Reference has been made above to the data processing bottlenecks and the poor quality of data collected as the main constraints which conventional household budget surveys, inter-censal demographic surveys, labour force surveys and agricultural production surveys have run into. As a result, the timeliness on availability of data obtained through these surveys has been adversely affected and the usefulness of the data undermined. The lack of quality, in the case of sample surveys, can be attributed to non-sampling errors and deficiencies of sample designs.

23. Much has been said about data processing bottlenecks and constraints of non-sampling errors. NHSCP has published a

---

<sup>1/</sup> See Bibliography - No. 26, Page 27, Section V.

technical study on the latter 2/. The respective survey programmes promoting the WFSSs, the DHSSs, the LSMS surveys, the ISSs and the PSSs, have also attempted to contribute to the resolution of these constraints. It would help if a scientific appraisal was undertaken to ascertain the success of all these endeavours. There is nothing new that the author can add other than to note that "apparently" these constraints are still affecting household surveys in the region.

24. The one technical issue, however, which the author would like to address in this paper concerns sample designs, and their effects on quality of data. One of the features of NHSCP/AHSCP was to promote establishment of population based multi-purpose master samples. Indeed, NHSCP has published a technical study on "Sampling Frames and Sample Designs for Integrated Household Survey Programmes". 3/

25. Master samples are cost-effective in situations where countries are interested in implementing continuous 3 to 5 year integrated household survey programmes. The countries that have developed and implemented master samples have ample evidence to endorse this observation. Additionally, it is also claimed that master samples do facilitate integration of data collected in various surveys, which constitute the integrated household survey programmes, at varying levels of disaggregation of the master sample. There is, however, not much evidence to sustain this latter claim. The author feels that this is not so much due to any technical problems, but to the lack of demand from the user/analytical side for such integration. In other words, this characteristic of the master sample has not been put to test. This is a pity because had it been tried and proven to be successful, as the author believes it would, it could have influenced the development of questionnaire designs for the DHSSs, and the LSMS surveys and the ISSs and the PSSs of the World Bank, reducing the need for the extensive coverage of subject matter in heavy single questionnaires. That in turn might have facilitated evolution of surveys on measurement of development which are home-grown, and therefore more likely to attract a sense of commitment and be sustained by indigenous capability and with domestic resources. NHSCP/AHSCP would certainly have wanted to promote this evolution, and indeed tried to do so, as an aspect of its overall objective of creating capability.

26. Be that as it may, master samples have now been in vogue in the Sub-Saharan Africa for some 15 to 20 years and there are indications that technical issues have arisen which call for review and further research to re-asertain merits and demerits of master

---

2/ See Bibliography No. 27

3/ See Bibliography No. 29.

samples in circumstance which now prevail in the Sub-Saharan African countries.

27. Master samples are a core feature of the integrated survey programmes which have and are being implemented by the countries that participated in NHSP/AHSCP - 24 of them in the Sub-Saharan Africa. The technical issues that have emerged after an extended period of application of master samples in the Sub-Saharan Africa concern validity of master samples as far as their application in diverse types of surveys is concerned - especially agriculture production surveys. Master samples are, as noted, population-based and there is an assumption of one to one correlation between a household and the holding. It is being suggested that in some countries or in some parts of some countries, this relationship is not valid any more - whereas 10 years ago it may have been. That apart, there is enough experience at the country level now to make better assessment of the prevailing practice on rotation of the ultimate sampling units, and the primary sampling units, to ensure the relevance of the samples over the life time of the household survey programmes for which the master samples were established. Deficiencies in identification of the samples on the ground too have been observed. Lastly it has also become apparent that while master samples require maintenance and on-going up-dating, in many instances the CSOs concerned are not able to do this to the extent required. All these factors, it is felt, could compromise quality of data secured in the household surveys.

28. A joint UN Statistical office/ECA/CFTC mission 4/, undertaken in 1983 has noted in its report that as far as the master sample for Kenya's National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP) for 1979-1983, is concerned:

- "it needs to be ascertained whether it was appropriate to use same sample of households for various surveys over several years;
- following on from this and depending on the frequency and effectiveness of the relisting operation, consideration needs to be given to assess the cost effectiveness of computerizing the households lists;
- the accuracy with which sample clusters were identified needs to be re-assessed;
- a large proportion of the Enumeration Areas were too small to be segmented into clusters of the required size of around 100 households - which means variability in sample takes may not have been adequately controlled

---

4/ See Bibliography - No. 7, pages 23-25, sub-section 4.2.

inspite of the introduction in principle of PPS selection and segmentation of Enumeration Areas into clusters;

- sample variances need to be calculated to undertake a general evaluation of the sample sizes used for the various surveys; and finally
- special requirements, if any, for the agriculture surveys need to be identified".

29. The author has not acquainted himself with the follow-up that the CBS, Kenya, may have undertaken on these recommendations. He has additionally, however, come across report of a mission by a consultant from Statistics Sweden to the Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania. As in the case of Kenya, and the joint mission referred to above, the consultant from Statistics Sweden has recommended<sup>5/</sup> that after 8 years of operation, Tanzania's National Master Sample be evaluated, to assess whether the sample is still well suited to the demands on the sample in terms of quality of estimates derived from the sample, its cost-efficiency, and the documentation of the design.

30. It is obvious that master samples have a prominent role to play in context of their relevance as a component of statistical infrastructure to implement integrated household survey programmes. But they do need continuous maintenance, updating and evaluation. Unfortunately, not all countries, especially small countries, and these are in the majority in the Sub-Saharan Africa, have the capacity to undertake on-going maintenance, updating and evaluation. In the Sub-Saharan Africa, the countries have had such assistance, at least for evaluation, provided externally by ECA through AHSCP. Unfortunately, AHSCP has, however, now ceased to operate.

31. Also, a lot of on-going associated research needs to be undertaken. While few countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa, e.g. Nigeria, South Africa, etc. etc. can establish arrangements to undertake such research, for the region as a whole this is best done in the sub-regional training institutes, provided the countries could be organized to facilitate access to empirical data required to undertake the research. With the cessation of AHSCP, there is today no institutional arrangement in the Sub-Saharan Africa through which such collaboration between the training institutions and the CSOs could be established. Last but not least, such initiatives need to be funded.

32. Consideration too now needs to be given to update the published technical study on "Sampling Frames and Sample Designs for Integrated Household Survey Programmes" published by the NHSCP

---

<sup>5/</sup> See Bibliography - No. 22.

in 1986 and referred to earlier. Were the research referred to above to be undertaken, its results would constitute a pertinent input in up-dating the study. ECA is endeavouring to convene an expert working group which would review the status of master sample designs in Africa, and the related issues of sampling for rare and elusive population groups and for rapid assessment surveys.

33. Apart from the issues concerning master samples, the author would like briefly to elude to four other technical issues, which also merit a mention. The first one of these concerns the need to promote more pertinent and detailed analysis and dissemination of data collected in household surveys, then would appear to have been the case hitherto. It seems to appear that in many countries where data have been collected, it cannot be claimed that all the data have been satisfactorily analysed. There is in fact a big disparity in the development of the capacity to collect data and the capacity to analyse it, and disseminate it, in a user friendly manner. The author feels the Sub-Saharan Africa has had to have more than its proportionate share of externally-inspired household survey data collection initiatives because indigenous initiatives have suffered from these deficiencies of inadequate/insufficient analysis of data that already exists and its pertinent dissemination. Preparation of survey reports and presentation of survey results call for special skills and experience. A number of the CSOs in the Sub-Saharan Africa lack the needed skilled and trained manpower to perform the tasks satisfactorily. NHSCP in its terminal phase undertook a technical study on "Preparation of Sample Survey Reports". The study discussed the technical aspects of the different components of report preparation. The objective of the study was to facilitate development of necessary skills and expertise for competent preparation of survey reports. Unfortunately, with the termination of NHSCP, the study, in a first draft stage, has not been published.

34. The two other issues the author would like to mention concern two further aspects of data dissemination. The first one of these relates to acquisition of technical know-how and appropriate computer software to analyse data cartographically. In countries where monitoring programmes are beginning to take root, data needs to be utilized to identify graphically problem areas and vulnerable demographic groups. Such "vulnerability mapping" would enhance interest in and use of data. Geographic Information Systems are beginning to play a crucial role in vulnerability mapping, but such techniques of data dissemination require that data be geographically disaggregated.

35. Secondly, development of data bases has hardly started in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Data bases provide good opportunities to do detailed analysis including, inter-linked analysis between subjects and surveys, and time series analysis. NHSCP had envisioned development of data bases on households, with the master sample, as the instrument facilitating linkage of data. NHSCP did not,

however, get very far in this region or in other regions where it had participating countries. The problem is not computing capability - software and hardware, but the conceptual issues of definitions, nomenclatures and classifications and harmonized survey procedures, which have yet to be resolved. Unfortunately, there is not much basic ground work being done to resolve these constraints. Hence the emergence of heavy multi-subject single survey questionnaires as an alternative approach to obtaining multi-subject integrated socio-demographic data. ECA is endeavouring to initiate a programme of technical cooperation in Uganda and 2 or 3 other countries to investigate possibilities of resolving issues of definitions, nomenclatures and classifications, and harmonized survey procedures to establish operational integrated household survey data bases.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

36. The session organizers had asked the author to focus the paper on national issues and perspectives to answer the question *"What works, what doesn't work, and why ?"*. As far as household surveys are concerned, what works in Sub-Saharan Africa is something that is "home-grown" and responds to domestically-perceived data needs. There are examples of countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa which have successfully developed and implemented home-grown household survey programmes. Published examples of these include the National Integrated Sample Survey Programme (NISSP), 1974-1979, and the National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP), 1980-1984, of the CBS, Kenya; the National Integrated Survey of Households (NISH) of the Federal Office of Statistics, Nigeria; and the Five Year, 1993/94 - 1997/98, Plan on "Development of Statistics in Namibia" of the Central Statistical Office, Namibia. There may be other published examples the author is not aware of.

37. There is an urgent need in the region for the CSOs to establish formal arrangements for on-going consultations between the CSOs and the domestic users of data so that data needs of the users can be ascertained pertinently. That will promote emergence of home-grown initiatives. Such consultations do take place in many countries but they are informal and ad-hoc, and therefore not adequately effective. Unfortunately, managements in the CSOs of the smaller countries do not have the capacity to sustain such institutionalized arrangements for consultation, and hence the problem.

38. In this context, it is perhaps worth noting that, since NHSCP/AHSCP did not promote any specific survey or type of data collection, it could and did try to help countries in ascertaining and prioritizing their respective data needs. There is need for such facilitation. Other programmes reviewed in this paper do not necessarily do that because they have their own surveys or types of data collection to promote - first and foremost.

39. It is however in technical issues, like those concerning the master samples, analysis, report preparation, vulnerability mapping and data bases, that the role of externally promoted survey initiatives comes into a sharper focus vis-à-vis NHSCP/AHSCP. NHSCP/AHSCP was established to respond to the needs of countries in specifically resolving such issues-hence an impressive list of technical studies undertaken and published by NHSCP. Other programmes, given their more narrowly prescribed objectives of promoting specific types of data collection, do not necessarily have to address such issues in the generic context that NHSCP/AHSCP did. NHSCP/AHSCP had in that context therefore a unique and complementary role to play, distinct from the role that has been played by other programmes reviewed in this paper.

40. The more immediate and pressing need for the Sub-Saharan Africa is for technical cooperation arrangements which will substitute effectively the technical support that the countries could access through AHSCP at their discretion. There is also the need to re-initiate the programme of supporting methodological and statistical development that was undertaken by NHSCP. This is the larger challenge facing ECA in its endeavour to sustain development of household surveys in Africa. ECA would like to develop substitute arrangements for technical assistance and a programme of research in household survey methods and procedures, based in academic institutions in the region, such as the training centres which participated in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa. For such arrangements to work successfully, effective liaison between the academic institutions and collaborating countries will need to be assured and the necessary funding support secured. If successful, it would be a good example of another home-grown initiative. ECA is the appropriate agency in the region to facilitate this.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

41. The author would like to identify the following recommendations emerging from the preceding review of the policy and the technical issues affecting household surveys in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

1. "Home-grown" survey initiatives work in the Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Effective user/producer consultations are an essential pre-requisite for development of "home-grown" survey initiatives.
3. External sources would do well to facilitate such "home-grown" initiatives.



4. "Home-grown" surveys and household survey programmes which essentially focus on collecting baseline and structural data, could take account of data needs for most of the indicators which are required to monitor economic and social development.
5. "Home-grown" surveys should be "simple".
6. ECA should develop its proposal to establish a programme of technical cooperation to provide technical support and to undertake necessary research in methods and procedures in household surveys, based on academic institutions in the region.
7. ECA should convene an Expert Working Group in Sampling for Household Surveys to review the current status of master samples, and sampling for rare and elusive population groups, and for rapid assessment surveys in the Sub-Saharan Africa.
8. The technical study on "Preparation of Sample Survey Reports" should be finalized and published.
9. ECA should strive to initiate a programme of technical cooperation in a selected few countries to investigate possibilities of resolving issues of definitions, nomenclatures and classifications and harmonized survey procedures to establish operational integrated household survey data bases which would facilitate analysis between subjects and surveys.

**Table 1: Household Surveys Conducted by Countries participating in NHSCP**

**1. Countries which joined in 1980**

Country	Topic	Year(s)
Kenya	1. Annual crop forecast survey	Bi-annual
	2. Survey of handicapped	1981
	3. Household budget survey	1982
	4. Health and nutrition survey	1982, 87
	5. National demographic survey	1983
	6. Urban housing survey	1983/84
	7. Contraceptive prevalence survey	1984
	8. Rural access roads survey	1982, 83, 84
	9. Urban labour force survey	1986
	10. Experimental crop cutting survey	1987
	11. Agricultural production survey	1987/88
	12. Rural housing survey	1987/88
	13. Literacy survey	1988
	14. Kenya demographic and health survey	1988/89
	15. Rural labour force survey	1987/88
	16. Urban labour force survey	1988
	17. Rural child nutrition survey	1988
	18. Evaluation survey of extension programme of Ministry of Agriculture	1990
	19. Survey of Kenya extended programme of immunization	1991, 92
	20. Urban household budget survey	1992

**II. Countries which joined in 1981**

Ethiopia	1. Annual agricultural sample survey	Annual
	2. Survey of community level variables	1981
	3. Demographic survey (2 rounds)	1981/82
	4. Rural household income, consumption and expenditure survey	1981/82
	5. Rural labour force survey (5 rounds)	1981/82
	6. Health and nutrition survey (2 rounds)	1982/83
	7. Sample vital registration system	Annual
	8. Rural labour force survey	1987/88
	9. Survey of community level variables	1988
	10. Survey of population and housing	1988
	12. Health and nutrition survey	1988
	13. Household income, expenditure and consumption survey	1988
	14. National family and fertility survey	1990
	15. Nutrition survey	1992
Malawi	1. Annual agricultural survey	1981-85
	2. Demographic survey	1982
	3. Labour force survey	1983
	4. Survey of disabled persons	1983
	5. Family formation survey	1984
	6. Housing survey	1986
	7. Household expenditure and small scale economic activities survey	1990
	8. Malawi demographic and health survey	1992
	9. National sample survey of agriculture	1992

### III. Countries which joined in 1982

Cameroon	1. Household income and expenditure survey	1983
	2. Post census evaluation survey	1983
	3. Demographic and health survey	1991
Mali	1. Pilot agricultural survey	1982
	2. National agricultural survey	1983/84
	3. Demographic survey	1985
	4. Crop forecast and yield survey (started 1986/87)	Annual
	5. Budget consumption survey	1988/89
	6. Survey of the informal sector	1989
	7. Migration survey	1992/93

### IV. Countries which joined in 1983

Benin	1. Multi-round demographic survey	1981/82
	2. Benin fertility survey	1982/83
	3. Household income and expenditure survey	1986/87
	4. Socio-economic monitoring survey (Cotonou)	1992
	5. Agricultural survey (1992)	Annual
Botswana	1. Agricultural survey	Annual
	2. Primary health care survey	1983
	3. Labour force survey	1984/85
	4. Income and expenditure survey	1985/86
	5. Demographic survey	1986/87
	6. The Botswana family health survey	1988
	7. Census post-enumeration survey	1991
Lesotho	1. Agriculture survey	Annual
	2. Labour force and migration survey	1985/86
	3. Income and expenditure survey	1986/87
	4. Health and nutrition survey	1988/89
	5. Sample census of agriculture	1989/90
	6. Inter-censal demographic survey	1992
Zambia	1. Post harvest agricultural survey	Annual
	2. Pilot income and expenditure survey	1985
	3. Area and crop cutting survey	1985/86
	4. Labour force survey	1986
	5. Comprehensive agricultural survey	1986/87
	6. Demographic and labour force survey	1987
	7. Crop forecast survey (1987/88)	Annual
	8. Nutrition survey	1989
	9. Census post enumeration survey	1990
	10. SDA priority survey	1991
	11. Demographic and health survey	1992
	12. Census of agriculture - Phase II incorporating modules on crop forecast, crop yield, and agricultural experiment	1992
	13. Drought impact monitoring survey	1992

Zimbabwe	1. Demographic and socio-economic survey in communal areas	1983/84
	2. Energy survey	1984
	3. Agricultural and livestock survey	Annual
	4. Nutrition status survey	1983,84,85
	5. Contraceptive prevalence survey	1984
	6. Income and expenditure survey	1985/85
	7. Water and sanitation survey	1984
	8. Literacy survey	1986
	9. Labour force survey	1986/87
	10. Demographic and health survey	1987/88
	11. Demographic and health survey	1988/89
	12. Services availability survey	1989/90
	13. Income and expenditure survey	1990/91

#### V. Countries which joined in 1987

Ghana	1. Living standards survey	1987,88
	2. Demographic and health survey	1988
	3. SDA integrated survey	1991/92
Sierra Leone	1. Labour force survey	1988/89
	2. Household expenditure and economic activities survey	1989/90
	3. Demographic and social monitoring survey	1992

#### VI. Countries which joined in 1988-89

Mauritania	1. Survey of living conditions	Annual
	2. Survey of maternal and child health	1990
Sudan	1. Demographic and health survey	1989/90
	2. Migration and labour force survey	1989/90
	3. PAPCHILD maternal and child health survey	1992/93
Swaziland	1. Agricultural survey on Swazi nation land	1988/89,89/90
	2. Family health survey	90/91, 91/92
	3. Survey of energy consumption and demand	1988
	4. Demographic survey	1991
Nigeria	1. General household survey	Annual
	2. Rural agricultural sample survey	Annual
	3. Labour force survey	Quarterly
	4. National agriculture sample census	1984/85
	5. Survey of housing status	1986
	6. Survey of internal migration	1986
	7. Family planning survey	Quarterly
	8. Survey of household enterprises	1988/89
	9. National demographic health survey	1990
	10. National consumer survey	1990,92
	11. Pilot study national agricultural sample census	1992

**VII. Countries which joined in 1990-91**

Tanzania	1. Agriculture sample survey	Annual
- Mainland	2. Labour force survey	1990/91
	3. Informal sector survey	1991/92
	4. Household income and expenditure survey - with a module on nutrition survey	1991/92
- Zanzibar	1. Informal sector survey	1990/91
	2. Household budget survey - with a module on nutrition survey	1991
	3. Labour force survey	1992
Angola	1. Labour force survey	1992
Mozambique	1. Income, expenditure and consumption survey	1991
	2. Employment and unemployment survey	1991/92
	3. Health and demographic survey	1992
Niger	1. Agricultural survey	Annual
	2. Urban income and expenditure survey	1990/91
	3. Rural income and expenditure survey	1992/93
	4. Demographic and health survey	1992
	5. Migration survey	1992/93
	6. Survey on youth in development	1992/93
Rwanda	1. Labour force survey	1988/89
	2. Demographic and health survey	1992
	3. Agricultural survey	Annual

**VIII. Countries which joined in 1992**

Guinea	1. National demographic and health survey	1992
Burkina Faso	1. National demographic survey	1991/92
Seychelles	1. Household expenditure survey	1991
	2. Labour force survey	1992

Source: DESD/Statistical Division. Review of the National Household Survey Capability Programme, by K.T. deGraft-Johnson, December 1992.

---

**Table 2: Countries undertaking the World Bank sponsored Living Standards Measurement Study and Social Dimension of Structural Adjustment Programme Surveys**

Country	Survey Type	Year Data collected
Angola	IS/Luanda	90
CAR	PS	93
Chad	PS/Ndjamena	91
Burundi	IES	88/90
Burundi	IES/Bujumbura	91
Ghana	LSMS 1	87/88
Ghana	LSMS 2	88/89
Ghana	LSMS 3	92/93
Gambia	PS	92
Guinea	PS	90
Guinea Bissau	PS	91
Cote d'Ivoire	LSMS 1	85/86
Côte d'Ivoire	LSMS 2	86/87
Côte d'Ivoire	LSMS 3	87/88
Côte d'Ivoire	LSMS 4	88/89
Côte d'Ivoire	PS/Abidjan	92
Côte d'Ivoire	PS	93
Kenya	PS	92
Madagascar	IS	93
Malawi	IES	90/91
Mali	PS	94
Mauritania	LSMS 1	87/88
Mauritania	LSMS 2	88/89
Mauritania	PS	92
Mozambique	IES/Maputo	92
Niger	IES	90-92
Nigeria	IES	85
Nigeria	IES	92
Senegal	PS	91
South Africa	IS	93
Tanzania	IES	93
Togo	IES	87-90
Uganda	IS	89-90
Uganda	IS	92
Zambia	PS	91
Zambia	PS	93

Survey Type  
IS: Integrated survey

PS: Priority Survey

**Table 3 Countries undertaking the Demographic Health Surveys  
Conducted by Macro-International Corporation  
and sponsored by the USAID**

Country	Date of field work	Implementing organizations
<b>DHS-I</b>		
Botswana	Aug-Dec 1986	Ministry of Health
Burundi	Apr-Jul 1987	Dép. de la Pop., Min. de l'Intérieur
Ghana	Feb-May 1988	Ghana Statistical Service
Kenya	Dec-May 1989	Nat. Council for Population & Dev.
Liberia	Feb-Jul 1988	Min. of Planning & Econ. Affairs
Mali	Mar-Aug 1987	Institut du Sahel: USED/CERPOD
Ondo State, Nigeria	Sep-Jan 1986/87	Ministry of Health, Ondo State
Senegal	Apr-Jul 1988	Ministère de l'économie et des finances
Sudan	Nov-May 1988/90	Dept. of Stat, Mi. of Fin. & Econ. Plan.
Togo	Jun-Nov 1986	Unité de recherche démog. Univ. du Bénin
Uganda	Sep-Feb 1988/89	Ministry of Health
Zimbabwe	Sep-Jan 1988/89	Central Statistical Office
<b>DHS-II</b>		
Burkina Faso	Dec-Mar 1992/93	Inst. nat. de la Stat. et de la démogr.
Cameroon	Apr-Sep 1991	Min. du plan et de l'aménagement du territoire
Madagascar	May-Nov 1992	Centre nat. de recherche sur l'environnement
Malawi	Sep-Nov 1992	National Statistical Office
Namibia	Jul-Nov 1992	Min. of Health and Social Services
Niger	Mar-Jun 1992	Dir. de la Statist. et des comptes nat.
Nigeria	Apr-Oct 1990	Federal Office of Statistics
Rwanda	Jun-Oct 1992	Office national de la population
Senegal	Nov-Aug 1992/93	Dir. de la prévision et de la statist.
Tanzania	Oct-Mar 1991/92	Bureau of Statistics, Plannign Commission
Zambia	Jan-May 1992	University of Zambia
<b>DHS - III</b>		
Burundi	1995	Dép. de la Pop., Min. de l'Intérieur
Central African Republic	Sep-Mar 1994/95	Div. des statistiques dém. et sociales
Côte d'Ivoire	Jun-Nov 1994	Institut national de la statistique
Ghana	Sep-Dec 1995	Ghana Statistical Service
Kenya	Feb-Aug 1993	Nat. Council for Population and Dev.
Tanzania	Jul-Sep 1994	Bureau of Statistics, Planning Commission
Zimbabwe	Jul-Nov 1994	Central Statistical Office

Source: Macro International Corporation

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

## I. Kenya

1. Central Bureau of Statistics. The National Integrated Sample Survey Programme, Phase 1: October 1974-August 1979. October 1975.
2. Central Bureau of Statistics. "The Household and the Holding". Kenya Statistical Digest: Vol. XIV, Numbers 3 and 4, 1976.
3. Central Bureau of Statistics. Integrated Rural Survey, 1974-75, Basic Report. March 1977.
4. Central Bureau of Statistics. The National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme, 1980/84. October 1980.
5. Central Bureau of Statistics. The National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme, Urban Areas, 1980/84. March 1981.
6. Central Bureau of Statistics. The Integrated Rural Surveys, 1976-79, Basic Report. November 1981.
7. UN Statistical Office/UN Economic Commission for Africa/Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. Report of a Joint Evaluation Mission. October 1983.
8. Central Bureau of Statistics, CBS Staff Papers on Review of the National Sample Design NASSEP I:
  - "Appropriateness of Using Same Household for Various Surveys". April, 1984.
  - "Cost Effectiveness of Computerising Household Lists". April, 1984.
  - "Consideration of Possible Options in the Choice of Basic Sample Design". April, 1984.
  - "Census Cartography and the Relation between Survey Programme - 1985-1989 and the 1989 Population Census". May, 1984.
9. Central Bureau of Statistics. "Statistical Information Processing Plan" - Project Findings and Recommendations on KEN/84/010. 1986.
10. UN Economic Commission for Africa and Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation. Report of the 1986 Joint evaluation Mission. June 1986.



11. UNRISD. Kenya: Monitoring Living Conditions and Consumption Patterns, by Judith Heyer. October 1990.
12. Central Bureau of Statistics. An Evaluation of Statistical Needs of Kenya - A Memorandum to the Government. 1993

## **II. Statistics Sweden - International Consulting Office**

### **- Zimbabwe**

13. Special Report. The 1992 Zimbabwe Master Sample, by Bengt Rosin, Zim 1993: 2. April 30, 1993.
14. Mission Report. 1993 Indicator Monitoring Survey in Zimbabwe, by Gun Alm Stenflo, Zimstat 1994:4. May 7, 1994

### **- Swaziland**

15. Mission Report. Sampling in Swaziland, by Ulf Olsson. Swastat 1994:2. December 12, 1993.
16. Mission Report. Sampling in Swaziland II, by ULf Olsson, Swastat 1994: 2. March 18, 1994.
17. Mission Report. Survey Planning and Presentation of Results, by, Vicke Söfström and Marie Uhlen. Swastat 1994: 3. June 22, 1994.

### **- Lesotho**

18. Mission Report. Sampling for the 1994/95 Household Budget Survey and the Creation of a Master Sample in Lesotho, by P.O. Olsson, Lesstat 1994 :1. March 15, 1994.

### **- Namibia**

19. Mission Report. Development of a National Household Survey Infrastructure in Namibia, by Hans Pettersen. Namstat 1994:4. April 14, 1994.
20. Mission report. Technical Advice for Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) 93/94, by Lars Lundgren. Namstat 1994:5. May 6, 1994.

### **- Tanzania**

21. Special Report. Developing a Tanzania Indicator Monitoring Survey (III), by Sten Johansson, SDA-Tanzania 1994:1. April 5, 1994.

22. Mission Report. Sampling for the Household Surveys in Tanzania, by Hans Petterson. Tanzstat 1994:10. September 16, 1994.
23. Mission Report. Dissemination of reports from the 1991/92 Household Budget Survey Tanzania Mainland, by Gunborg Johansson. Tanstat 1994:14. September 22, 1994.

### **III. Nigeria**

24. Federal Office of Statistics. National Integrated Survey of Households (NISH), Fourth Status Report. April 1992.

### **IV. Uganda**

25. Statistics Department/Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics/Uganda Statistical Society. Africa Statistics Day and Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics Silver Jubilee Celebrations, 16-18 October, 1994.

### **V. Namibia**

26. Central Statistics Office. Development of Statistics in Namibia. A Five Year Plan, 1993/94-1997/98. September, 1993.

### **VI. National Household Survey Capability Programme**

27. DTCD/Statistical Office. Non-sampling Errors in Household Surveys: Sources, Assessment and Control. 1982
28. DTCD/Statistical Office. Development and Design of Survey Questionnaires. 1985.
29. DTCD/Statistical Office. Sampling Frames and Sample Designs for Integrated Household Survey Programmes. 1986.
30. DESD/Statistical Division. Review of the National Household Survey Capability Programme, by K.T. deGraft-Johnson. December 1992.
31. DESIPA/Statistical Division. Sampling Errors in Household Surveys. 1993.
32. DESIPA/Statistical Division. Sampling Rare and Elusive Populations.