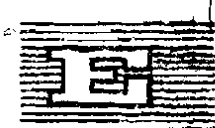


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Working Group of Consultants on
Household Surveys
Addis Ababa, 11-20 December 1961

DRAFT REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OF CONSULTANTS
ON HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Working Group of Consultants on Household Surveys met at the ECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 11-20 December 1961. The meeting formed a project in the programme of regional co-operation for the development of statistics agreed at the Second Conference of African Statisticians in Tunis in July 1961. Its object was to review past and current household surveys in Africa, to clarify the objectives and methods of such enquiries under African conditions and to propose methods of developing survey programmes as part of the regular work of national statistical offices.

2. Participants at the Working Group comprised eleven persons from African countries and twelve representatives from the UN Bureau of Social Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the International Labour Office, the UN Technical Assistance Organisation, the University College of Addis Ababa and the ECA Secretariat. The list of participants is given in Annex I of this report.

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Stein Rossen, Chief of the Research Division, ECA, on behalf of the Executive Secretary who was away from Addis Ababa attending the independence celebrations of Tanganyika. After welcoming the participants, he explained that the decision to convene the Working Group had originated in the discussions at the First and Second Conferences of African Statisticians which had placed considerable emphasis on the development of household surveys as one of the means of obtaining more complete quantitative information on the economies of African countries. Most African countries were now actively concerned with the formulation of plans for economic and social development, but unfortunately much of the data needed for efficient planning was lacking. One of the principal requirements was for more adequate information about the private sectors of economies and, in particular, about those parts of the private sectors consisting of individual households, which in Africa were responsible for a large proportion of economic activity.

4. Mr. Rossen felt that persons with experience of survey work in Africa were best qualified to make recommendations relating to the development of work in this field. Survey objectives were probably the most important topic to be considered at the meeting and the clarification of the methods appropriate to the various objectives would come next in importance. He said that, in reaching its conclusions the meeting would need to take into account the stage of economic and statistical development reached in different countries and also to recognise the fact that the development of survey programmes must be a gradual process.

5. In conclusion he indicated that it was proposed to keep the report of the Working Group as brief as possible as the details of the discussions would be incorporated in a more comprehensive publication on household surveys to be prepared by the Secretariat in 1962. While acknowledging that the Group could not expect to solve all problems connected with the development of surveys of this type he expected that a substantial contribution would be made in this respect and wished the participants every success in their work.

6. Mr. Y. Diakite (Mali) and Mr. A. Mullier (Madagascar) were unanimously elected Joint Chairmen of the meeting. The meeting also requested Mr. A. Goma (UAR) and Professor J.B. Simiaka (FAO) to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of its report.

7. Some minor revision of the provisional agenda was considered necessary in order to take account more clearly of the scope of household surveys under African conditions. With these amendments the agenda was adopted and is given in Annex II. The list of documents prepared for the meeting is shown in Annex III.