Understanding Household Surveys

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Poverty and Inequality Course
Module 1: Multi-Topic Household Surveys
03/05/2014
Outline

– Why data
  • Why household survey data

– Overview of options
  • Scope, main features, …

– LSMS
  • Evolution, Current areas of work, LSMS-ISA

– Uses of multi-topic household surveys

– Household surveys in the national stats system
The Demand for Data

- Performance-based management
  - Is the public sector delivering services? Well targeted?
  - Are country policies reducing poverty?
  - Is aid supporting poverty reduction?
  - Inform Country Partnership Strategies (CPS/CAS).

- Monitoring goals: Eliminating extreme poverty (3% in 2030) & boosting shared prosperity.
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- General ESW, AAA
Household Data

• Many types of household/individual-level data:
  – Case studies
  – Qualitative/participatory assessments
  – Focus Group Discussions
  – Quantitative Service Delivery Surveys (PETS-QSDS)
  – Household Surveys
  – Administrative data
  – Censuses
Heterogeneity in Surveys

• Initial purpose of the survey drives the way survey is designed and implemented
  – Different agenda → Different instrument

• An increasingly crowded field…
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<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<td>Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS)</td>
<td>Stat Norway</td>
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<td>Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)</td>
<td>Eurostat</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)</td>
<td>WFP</td>
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<td>Integrated, Multi-Topic Surveys [Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), Integrated Surveys (IS), Family Life Surveys (FLS)]</td>
<td>World Bank, RAND, NSOs</td>
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</table>
Heterogeneity in Surveys

- Dimensions of a possible typology …

1. External Validity (ability to infer ‘population’ traits)
2. “Directness” of measurement
3. Analytic complexity
4. Respondent Burden
5. Methods
Dimensions: “Representativity”

The extent to which ‘sample’ estimates can be used to make inferences about a population

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<tr>
<th>Case study</th>
<th>Purposive selection</th>
<th>Quota sampling</th>
<th>Small prob. sample</th>
<th>Large prob. sample</th>
<th>Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Dimensions: "Representativity"
Dimensions: Subjective/Objective

- Direct measurement
- Questionnaire (quantitative)
- Questionnaire (qualitative)
- Structured interview
- Open meetings
- Conversations
- Subjective assessments
- Case study
  - Purposive selection
  - Quota sampling
- Small prob. sample
- Large prob. sample
- Census
Participatory Poverty Assessments

Sentinel Site Surveillance

Participant observation

Beneficiary Assessment

Windshield Survey

Case study

Purposive selection

Quota sampling

Structured interview

Open meetings

Conversations

Direct measurement

Questionnaire (quantitative)

Questionnaire (qualitative)

Structured interview

Open meetings

Conversations

Small prob. sample

Large prob. sample

Census

DHS/MICS

Household Budget

LSMS/ IS

CWIQ/PS

Community Surveys

Subjective assessments

Household Budget

Census

DHS/MICS

LSMS/ IS

CWIQ/PS

Community Surveys

Subjective assessments
Direct measurement

Questionnaire (quantitative)

Questionnaire (Qualitative)

Structured interview

Open meetings

Conversations

Subjective assessments

Case study

Purposive selection

Quota sampling

Small prob. sample

Large prob. sample

Census

DHS/MICS

Household Budget Survey

LSMS/IS

CWIQ/PS

Census
Household Budget Surveys (HBS)

- Purposes: Collect household expenditure data to estimate weights (food shares) for consumer price indices; Also provides input for national accounts.
- Countries often add modules on income to their HBS in order to facilitate the measurement of national income as well. (then IES)
- Restricted set of questions that often mimic what is captured in the decennial population and housing census.
- Topics can include:
  - basic demographic information
  - education levels
  - employment status
  - agricultural module (rare)
- Supported by Central Bank, IMF
Labor Force Survey (LFS)

- **Purpose:** Measure and monitor indicators of a country’s economic situation with respect to labor supply; for planning and evaluating many government programs.
- **Done monthly in many developed countries; quarterly or annually or less in most developing countries.**
- **Topics include those related to labor:**
  - employment,
  - unemployment,
  - Earnings,
  - hours of work,
  - occupation, industry, and class of worker.
  - Supplemental questions— income, previous work experience, health, employee benefits, and work schedules
  - May ask other sources of income/poverty measurement

- Supported by Ministry of Labor, ILO definitions
Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS, dhsprogram.com)

- **Purpose:** collect data on health, primarily maternal and infant health, but not limited to this, and demography.
- **Started in 1984** (continuation of the World Fertility Survey and the Contraceptive Prevalence Surveys that had been done previously.)
- **Done in > 90 countries** (> 220 standard DHS done)
- **Women in reproductive age**
- **Topics usually covered by the surveys include,**
  - basic characteristics of the household and the respondents,
  - child health, education,
  - family planning, fertility and fertility preferences,
  - HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes and behavior,
  - infant and child mortality,
  - maternal health,
  - nutrition, and
  - socio-economic indicators based on asset ownership.
- **Supported by USAID through Macro Int’l.**
The Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

- **Purpose:** Monitor progress on the 1990 World Summit for Children Goals
- Assessing progress on HIV/AIDS and malaria reduction
- Four waves so far, 62 countries in MICS IV, MICS V started in 2012 (3-year periodicity)
- **Main topics covered**
  - MDGs
  - nutrition,
  - child health and mortality,
  - water and sanitation,
  - housing,
  - reproductive health and contraceptive use,
  - literacy, child protection,
  - labor,
  - domestic violence
- **Supported by UNICEF**
Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)

• Purpose: Measure and monitor a limited range of human development indicators, on access, utilization and satisfaction with social services
• Mainly done in Africa region
• Sometimes in conjunction with IHS-type baseline
• Topics- indicators:
  – Roster
  – Education- use
  – Health-use
  – Sanitation
  – Correlates of poverty …
• Supported by World Bank
Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) Surveys

- Started in 1980s: “the McNamara Anecdote”
- Purpose: Measure poverty plus study household behavior, welfare, interactions with government policies: determinants of outcomes, and linkages among assets/characteristics of households/livelihood sources/government interventions.
- Topics include (inter alia)
  - HH composition
  - Education
  - Health
  - Labor
  - Migration
  - Credit Use
  - Consumption
  - Agriculture
  - HH enterprises
  - Community characteristics, prices
  - Facility characteristics
- Supported by World Bank, UN agencies, IADB, bilateral agencies, governments
Dimensions: Analytic Complexity

• Simplest- Monitoring Indicators
  – CWIQs, WMS, MICS, CFSVA

• In depth on one/selected topic:
  – LFS, IES/HBS, Agricultural/Farm Surveys, DHS

• Most complex
  – Multi-topic: LSMS, Integrated Surveys (IS), Family Life Surveys (FLS)
  – Multi-topic, panel: LSMS-ISA
Dimensions: Respondent burden

– Function of questionnaire length, number of respondents, method (recall vs. diary; HH vs. individual; farm vs. plot)

– Least burden, short questionnaires: CWIQ, MICS: one respondent

– Medium: LFS, Ag. Surveys, one respondent

– Medium to long: LSMS, FLS, Long questionnaire but multiple respondents

– Greatest Burden: diary-based IES/HBS, long questionnaire, mostly answered by one person (some individual diaries also)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Sample - hhlds</th>
<th>Geographic desegregation</th>
<th>Freq. data collection</th>
<th>Period of data collection</th>
<th>No., visits</th>
<th>Interview Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Censuses</td>
<td>All hhlds in country</td>
<td>Any level</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>1 day to 1 month</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>½ hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income / Expenditure Surveys (IES)</td>
<td>2,000-20,000</td>
<td>3-10 regions Urban/rural</td>
<td>1-5-10 years</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>1-2 hours per visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force Surveys (LFS)</td>
<td>5,000-50,000</td>
<td>5-20 regions Urban/rural</td>
<td>Month --5 yrs</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30 minutes per active hh member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)</td>
<td>5,000-20,000</td>
<td>5-20 regions Urban/rural</td>
<td>5-10 years</td>
<td>3-4 months</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)</td>
<td>2,000-15,000</td>
<td>&lt;5 regions Urban/rural</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>3 months or less</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaires (CWIQ)</td>
<td>5,000-15,000</td>
<td>5-20 regions Urban/rural</td>
<td>Once or twice</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt; 1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated, Multi-Topic Surveys (LSMS/IS/FLS)</td>
<td>2,000-5,000</td>
<td>3-8 regions Urban/rural</td>
<td>3-5 years</td>
<td>2-12 months</td>
<td>1 or more</td>
<td>1-3 hours per visit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The World Bank and Surveys

- Living Standard Measurement Study
- Priority Surveys
- Core Welfare Indicators
- Impact Evaluation Surveys
- Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS)
- Quality of Service Delivery Survey (QSDS)
- Investment Climate Surveys
- Mobile Phone efforts (Listening to LAC, Listening to Africa)
- ...
The thinking behind the LSMS survey

• Need to understand living standards, poverty, inequality and the correlates and determinants of these - not just monitor.

• Unit of analysis is the household, as both a consuming and producing unit
  - Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

• One survey collecting data on a range of topics is a more powerful tool for policy formulation than a series of single purpose surveys: the sum is greater than the parts
  - Farmers are diversified
  - Poverty is multidimensional
The thinking behind the LSMS survey

• Demand driven: implemented in a specific country as needed
• Priority given to meeting the policy needs of each country, but an eye to x-country comparability
• Implications
  – no standard set of LSMS questionnaires: content, length and complexity varies by country and, at times, over time within a given country.
  – Questionnaire development- lengthy process linking data users, stakeholders and data producers
  – Capacity building, sustainability within national statistical offices
LSMS: Evolution since 1980

• 1980-85: started as research project, piloting
• 1986-1993: further validation
• 1994-2005: decentralization, technical assistances
• 2005-present: “back to our roots”

Always with a focus on open (public) & well-documented data!
The LSMS today

- Ever increasing demand for data
- New demand -- new topics
- New technologies
- Old topics with added focus (agriculture)
- Goal: ensure that the Bank’s LSMS meets new demands for data and remains at the forefront of survey methodology

- Four areas of focus
  - Data collection
  - Methodological Work
  - Tools
  - Training and Dissemination
Data Collection

- Helping countries to generate high quality policy-relevant data sets
  - Specific LSMS surveys (Albania, Tajikistan, Iraq)
  - Supporting other survey efforts (Bangladesh HBS, Pakistan targeting surveys)
  - Expansions on the standard LSMS platform (LSMS-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture)
  - Ad Hoc advice and peer review
Key Uses of LSMS Data

• LSMSs & other integrated household surveys respond to demand for data for performance-based management

• Multi-topic household surveys also used for other purposes

• Three broad categories of use:
  – Basic diagnostics of living standards
  – Evaluation/development of programs
  – Studies of development processes
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

- Many, but not all MDG indicators are captured in an LSMS/IS
- Some can be measures with adaptation (if there is lack of other data sources for that indicator, such as IMR/immunization histories)
- Other indicators (e.g. MMR, any low-prevalence indicator, often times program participation) require either larger samples than a typical LSMS or administrative/other data or extensive over-sampling of sub-populations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDG</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>LSMS/IS (Usually)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</td>
<td><strong>Proportion of population below $1 a day</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Share of poorest quintile in national consumption</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prevalence of underweight in children (under five years of age)</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Achieve universal primary education</td>
<td><strong>Net enrollment ratio in primary education</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Literacy rate of 15 to 24-year-olds</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Promote gender equality and empower women</td>
<td><strong>Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ratio of literate females to males among 15- to 24-year-olds</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Share of women in wage employment in the nonagricultural sector</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### MDGs 4 - 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDG</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>LSMS/IS (Usually)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Reduce child mortality</strong></td>
<td>IMR and immunizations: usually not, but possible</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Improve maternal health</strong></td>
<td>§ Maternal mortality ratio</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</td>
<td>Yes (Births in last 2 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases</strong></td>
<td>§ HIV prevalence among 15- to 24-year-old pregnant women</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Contraceptive prevalence rate</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures</td>
<td>Prevention: Yes Treatment: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ TB indicators</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Ensure environmental sustainability</strong></td>
<td>§ Land use, GDP per unit of energy use, Carbon dioxide emissions</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, access to improved sanitation, access to secure tenure</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. Develop a global partnership for development</strong></td>
<td>No for most (with exception of unemployment rate of 15- to 24-year-olds)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Diagnosics – South Sudan

Attendance Rates by Age Group, Household Consumption Quintile

Source: Republic of Sudan National Baseline Household Survey 2009
Rural HHs: Poverty by Main Income Source & # of Income Generating Activities

Data: National Reconstruction and Vulnerability Assessment, 2007/08
Diagnostics – Afghanistan
Poverty & Terrain

Data: National Reconstruction and Vulnerability Assessment, 2007/08
Diagnostics – Kenya

Benefit Incidence of Government Education Spending by Level, Quintile 2005/06

Data: KIHBS 2005/06
Diagnostic: Women and Agriculture

Poverty Maps

• Highly spatially-disaggregated databases of poverty and inequality

• Demand for poverty maps: geographic targeting of anti-poverty programs, decentralization and evidence-based policy.

• Linking LSMS/IS data to Census data to impute welfare levels in small areas


• [http://go.worldbank.org/K48UJIYIP0](http://go.worldbank.org/K48UJIYIP0)
Spatial Distribution of Poverty in Vietnam

The poverty rate of districts (%)

1999

2009

Source: The 2009 poverty rates are estimated from the 2009 VPHC and the 2010 VHLSS. The 1999 poverty rates are obtained from Minot et al. (2002).
Poverty & Social Impact Analysis (PSIA)

- Analysis of consequences and distributional impacts of policy interventions/reforms, such as:
  - Utilities
  - Pension reforms
  - Civil service reform
  - Ag reform
  - Education/health (fees, decentralization)
  - Fiscal (VAT, other taxes)
  - Land reforms

- www.worldbank.org/psia
## Tools for PSIA

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<th>Types</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<td>Direct impact analysis</td>
<td>Incidence tools</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Poverty mapping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Behavioral models</td>
<td>Supply and demand analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Household models</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partial equilibrium tools</td>
<td>Multi-market models</td>
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<tr>
<td>General equilibrium tools</td>
<td>CGEs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SAM-IO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macro-micro models</td>
<td>1-2-3 PRSP</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PAMS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gas Price Hikes in Armenia

Malawi ADMARC Reforms

- Restructuring marketing functions of ADMARC (closing loss-making markets for inputs and outputs)
- 1997/98 Malawi Integrated Household Survey, merged with location of ADMARC markets & roads network
- Proximity has a larger positive effect on maize yields, demand for fertilizer, farm profits & consumption in remote areas.
- Areas with private sector & close to a main road, closure of loss-making markets without major distributional impacts.
- Areas with no private sector & isolated, subsidy to loss making markets could be justified for their social role.
Proxy Means Testing

- **Beneficiary Identification**: Using household survey data to develop a short list of simple indicators that can be collected to “proxy” household consumption.

- **Compile long list of possible indicators**, then use econometrics to determine which indicators are useful & the weight to place on these indicators.

- **Analysis** can be made more accurate by using more specific geographic regions (urban/rural, districts, etc) but this depends on the level at which results can be generalized from household data.
Proxy Means Testing: Examples

- KIHBS 2007 data used to create targeting system for Kenya Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program

- Panama *Red de Oportunidades* CCT program, developed with input from the 2003 Panama Living Standards Survey (Encuesta de Niveles de Vida, ENV)
Ex-Post Evaluation of Policy/Events

- Evaluation of impact of Malawi farm input subsidy program by re-surveying a subset of IHS 2004/05 households in 2007 & 2009
Summary of Uses

• Household surveys like an LSMS can help monitor welfare, as well as influence the design & implementation of social policy

• They are also a tool for studying development & living standards more generally

• The extent of these applications will depend on, among other factors:
  – Comparability with existing data
  – Developing questionnaire/sample to respond to needs
  – Coordination with others (country teams, other groups)
  – Public availability of well-documented data
Household Surveys within the National Statistical Systems

- **Users**
  - Policy makers, managers, researchers, public

- **Statistical institutions**
  - National statistical agency, Chief Statistician
  - Statistical units in line ministries, central bank
  - Legislation, including national statistical laws
  - Other coordination, planning, quality control arrangements (e.g. codes of practice, shared staffing arrangements, etc.)

- **Key data sources**
  - Administrative data, including registers
  - Sample surveys (households and businesses)
  - Censuses
Household surveys

• **Sample surveys** typically:
  – Provide a large number of variables
  – On a sample of the population
  – And are (relatively) easy to specify and conduct

• **But:**
  – Can be infrequent, expensive, incoherent over time, not representative of small areas, etc…
  – In developing countries, (over?) reliance on just a few internationally-sponsored household surveys (DHS, MICS, LSMS, CWIQ)

• **Censuses**
  – Special case (more expensive, infrequent, small number of variables but on entire population)
Other surveys

- Price data collection
- Firm surveys
Administrative data: complementary source

• **Administrative data** are:
  – Usually less expensive to use (provided they exist)
  – Regular, can be timely
  – Often can produce disaggregated data

• **But:**
  – Data may not be those that are needed
  – They inherent weaknesses from administrative systems themselves (inaccuracies/biases/coverage problems ...)
  – Usually few variables available - less useful for identifying causal relationships and impact
Some common administrative data sources

- Vital registration
- Health facility records
- Education records
- Tax systems
- Social benefit systems
- Business registration
- Criminal justice records
- Transport infrastructure
- …
Lack of strong statistical systems can lead to data weaknesses in hh survey data.
Changing questionnaires: changing comparability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of consumption module in questionnaire</th>
<th>Mean consumption per cap (Tsh)</th>
<th>Poverty headcount ($1.25/day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long 7 day recall</td>
<td>520,850</td>
<td>54.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH diary infrequent</td>
<td>425,298</td>
<td>55.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal diary</td>
<td>510,616</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some final thoughts …

• Multitude of reasons to collect household data
• Surveys range from the very simple to the very complex
• Data needs must drive the design and implementation of the survey
• An increasingly crowded field, yet …
  – Don’t have data we need (quantity and quality)
  – Inadequate coordination, overlapping
  – Poor integration, link to other data sources
• Think systemically
• Mix of science, politics & creativity!
And some thoughts about surveys done within the World Bank

• Often WB surveys are done with private firms, not with national stats office
  • Esp. when surveys don’t need to be nationally representative

• Still, they
  • Will need NSO sample frames
  • Should be comparable to existing national survey efforts

• And **always**: They should strive to be documented and made public
Further Information on HHId Surveys

- **LSMS:**
- **International Survey Network**
  - http://www.surveynetwork.org
- **LSMS-ISA:**
- **DHS**
  - http://www.measuredhs.com
- **MICS**
  - http://www.childinfo.org
- **LFS**
  - http://www.census.gov
- **IES/HBS**
  - http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm
- **CWIQ**