
Contacts :

Olivier Dupriez
Senior Economist-Statistician
World Bank
odupriez@worldbank.org

Neil Fantom
Senior Economist-Statistician
World Bank
nfantom@worldbank.org

Background

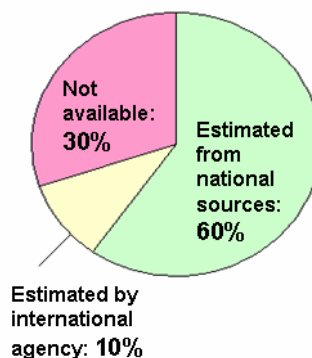
1. Since the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico, 2002), the development community has embraced a new partnership that urges developing countries to strengthen their commitment to and leadership of poverty reduction and economic growth policies, and developed countries to provide increased and more effective aid.

2. To steer the development process toward the goals they define and to provide their international development partners with information needed to assess and monitor the effectiveness of their assistance, developing countries need to strengthen their statistical systems. Many still lack the statistical capacity and resources needed to regularly produce reliable and comparable key indicators—including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators, and continue to struggle with monitoring progress and evaluating results.

3. An assessment of the availability of estimates for low income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa of the 25 selected MDG indicators that can be obtained from household surveys illustrates the extent of the data gaps.¹ On average, national sources provide data for only 60 per cent of these indicators, measured as the availability of at least one data point over the period 2000-2004 (Figure 1). Roughly 10 percent of the available data are interpolations or model-based estimates made by international agencies.

4. Significant data gaps result from the infrequency of surveys.² Only 62 per cent of the population of low income countries in Africa resides in a country that has conducted a nation-wide poverty survey between 2000 and 2004, compared with 81 per cent for health surveys³ (Figure 2). Only 53 per cent of the residents of low income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa live in a country that has conducted a census since 1995, compared with 99 per cent of European residents, and 95 per cent of Asian residents. If this frequency of censuses and surveys is repeated over the next ten years, the availability of good estimates for MDG monitoring in 2010 and 2015 will fall well short of that required.

Figure 1. Percentage of indicators with at least one estimate available in international databases between 2000 and 2004

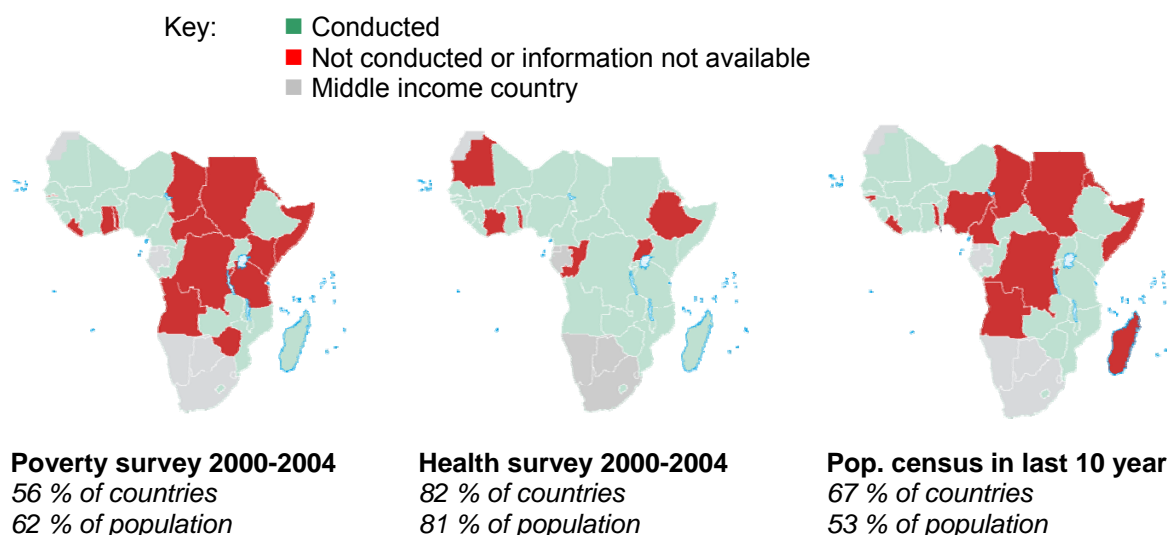


¹ Data source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database, as of October 25, 2005. The share of data produced by international agencies is taken from estimates of a working group (“Friends of the Chair”) of the UN Statistical Commission.

² Based on available data in the International Household Survey Network catalogue, and information obtained directly from the UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Statistics Division, and UNICEF, all as of October 25, 2005.

³ Poverty surveys include integrated surveys, income/expenditure surveys, Living Standards Measurement Study surveys, and priority surveys with a consumption module. Health surveys include Demographic and Health Surveys sponsored by USAID and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys sponsored by UNICEF. Health surveys include Demographic and Health Surveys sponsored by USAID and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys sponsored by UNICEF.

Figure 2. Recent surveys and censuses in low income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa



5. The First Round Table on Better Measurement, Monitoring, and Managing for Results (Washington DC, 2002) called for a better coordinated support to statistical capacity-building by development agencies, and for the harmonization of approaches to results measurement, monitoring, and reporting. Based on these recommendations, the *Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics* (MAPS) was presented at the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results (Marrakech, 2004). It is now supported by many United Nations agencies and regional groups. The plan focuses on a number of key statistical issues relevant to the poorest countries, including the long-term goal of building sustainable statistical systems, and shorter-term actions to provide estimates of high profile outcome indicators, such as those used for monitoring Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MAPS recommends the implementation of six key actions. Those aimed at national level are: (i) mainstream strategic planning of statistical systems within national development processes; (ii) full participation in the 2010 round of population censuses; and (iii) countries and partners to increase financing for statistics and statistical capacity building. Those aimed at the international level are (iv) set-up an international household survey network to improve the effectiveness of international household survey programs; (v) make improvements in key data sets related to MDG monitoring; and (vi) increase the accountability for international statistics.⁴

6. Increasing the frequency and quality of household surveys is an important part of the MAPS strategy, because they can generate near-term improvements in the measurement of over half the indicators needed for monitoring the MDGs (Table 1). Following the MAPS recommendation, the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) was established in 2004 as a coordination mechanism for fostering better planning and implementation of household surveys. Based on this initiative, a new program - the Accelerated Data Program (ADP) - has been devised. It consists of a coordinated program of data collection, analysis and dissemination, with a particular focus on the production and analysis of key comparable indicators (MDG, PRS).

⁴ See *The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics. Better Data for Better Results. An Action Plan for Improving Development Statistics*. Presented at the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results, Marrakech, Morocco, February 4-5, 2004.

Table 1. Use of major household surveys in estimating key MDG Indicators

- Indicator can be measured with this survey
- ⊙ Indicator can be measured with this survey, but some changes to methodology may be required
- Indicator would not normally be estimated with this survey

Goal	Indicator (indicators in bold are IDA indicators)	IS/ LSMS	DHS	MICS	CWIQ	IES	PS	PC
1	1. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day	●	○	○	○	●	○	○
	2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty]	●	○	○	○	●	○	○
	3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	●	○	○	○	●	○	○
	4. Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age	●	●	●	○	●	○	○
	5. Prop. of pop. below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	●	○	○	○	●	○	○
2	6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
	7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	●	●	●	●	○	●	○
	8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds	●	⊙	●	●	○	●	●
3	9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, tertiary education	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
	10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year-olds	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
	11. Share of women in wage employment in non-agricultural sector	●	⊙	○	⊙	○	●	●
4	13. Under-five mortality rate	⊙	●	●	○	○	○	●
	14. Infant mortality rate	⊙	●	●	○	○	○	●
	15. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles	●	●	●	●	○	○	○
5	16. Maternal mortality ratio	⊙	●	●	⊙	○	○	●
	17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	●	●	●	⊙	○	●	●
6	18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women	○	⊙	○	○	○	○	○
	19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
	20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS	⊙	⊙	○	○	○	○	○
	22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures	⊙	●	○	⊙	○	○	○
7	29. Proportion of population using solid fuels	●	⊙	○	●	○	●	●
	30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
	31. Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
	32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure	●	⊙	○	⊙	○	⊙	●
8	45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, each sex and total	●	⊙	○	●	○	●	●
	47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 1000 population	⊙	⊙	○	⊙	○	⊙	●
	48. Personal computers in use and Internet users per 1000 population	⊙	⊙	○	⊙	○	⊙	⊙

CWIQ = Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (World Bank), characterized by large samples and short questionnaires

DHS = Demographic and Health Survey (USAID/ORC Macro International Inc.)

IS = Integrated Survey (multi-topic household survey, similar to LSMS)

LSMS = Living Standards Measurement Survey (World Bank)

MICS = Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey (UNICEF), typically implemented at mid-decade and end-decade.

PC = Population and Housing Census; United Nations recommend implementation of population censuses every 10 years.

PS = Priority Survey

Program objectives and activities

7. The goal of the pilot Accelerated Data Program is to work closely with data producers in participating countries on the production of relevant data for policy design, monitoring, and evaluation, and to assist them in aligning their survey programs and statistical outputs to their priority data needs. Intermediate objectives of the ADP are to (i) assist statistical systems in responding to emerging data needs; (ii) assist countries that do not have a coherent long-term survey program in strategizing their data collection activities; (iii) foster better inter-agency cooperation under the umbrella of the IHSN; (iv) build national capacity in micro-data preservation, analysis, anonymization, and dissemination; and (v) generate updated estimates of key indicators by further exploiting existing datasets and collecting new data.

8. The program objectives will be pursued on a pilot basis in twelve countries. Financial support will be provided by the World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF), through a grant of \$2m per year administered by PARIS21 from 2006. At least six countries will be from Africa. Other selection criteria include:

- (i) the willingness and interest shown by the country to fully engage in the program
- (ii) the extent of the data gaps for key survey-based indicators
- (iii) the status of the country's national strategy for the development of statistics (NSDS). The availability of a NSDS will facilitate the identification of data collection priorities, and ensure that the Program activities are properly integrated in a coherent data collection program.
- (iv) the willingness of the country to disseminate microdata to secondary users
- (v) the current and planned country survey program
- (vi) other donors' statistical support to the country (the Accelerated Program must complement, not replace or duplicate other initiatives)
- (vii) the national statistical capacity, e.g., as measured by the World Bank Country Statistical Information Database
- (viii) other criteria such as the population of the country.

9. Much support has already been provided to survey programs in developing countries. National and international survey programs have been funded by various multilateral and bilateral donors. Despite this assistance, few low-income countries have managed to establish sustainable survey programs able to provide regular flow of reliable, timely and comparable data. The main issues related to national survey programs are the following:

Data availability and timeliness. Few developing countries have the financial and technical resources to implement large-scale survey programs. Survey programs remain largely donor-driven, resulting in large data gaps in some countries, and duplication of efforts in others. The timeliness, frequency, and sequencing of surveys are far from optimal. National survey programs are too rarely implemented with a mid- and long-term horizon. The PARIS21 Task Team on Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals⁵ recommended that "countries and partners should finance statistical activities on the basis of National Statistical Development Strategies and multi-annual plans for statistical activities. These plans should contain agreed, clear, and

⁵ PARIS21, Task Team on Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals, *Report on Six Case Studies*, 2004.

prioritized financing plans. Pooled funding arrangements, which avoid duplications and minimize programmatic distortions, are encouraged.”

Data reliability. In the last 15 years, national statistical capacity has increased in most developing countries. But many still lack the expertise needed to collect, process, and analyze complex multi-topic survey data in a satisfactory manner. One consequence is that much published data is generated not by countries, but by international agencies using modeling or estimation techniques.

Data comparability. Surveys become more valuable when they allow comparisons to be made with other surveys and data sets. Harmonization of survey methods and instruments would increase comparability of the results obtained. The PARIS21 Task Team on Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals⁵ recommended that “countries should take the lead and agree to publish and use common methodologies and standards for statistical activities and the compilation of indicator estimates. Donors and technical experts should respect these standards and the need for temporal comparability when delivering programs of technical assistance, particularly household surveys.”

Data analysis and use. Data producers in developing countries have limited capacity, and sometimes limited interest or mandate, to analyze the data they collect. In too many cases, the output of surveys is limited to a descriptive report and a collection of tables of limited relevance to policy makers. Data producers not only make limited use of their data, they restrict access to microdata by secondary users for various technical, legal, and in a few cases political reasons. Secondary users potentially interested in using the data may include policy makers who want different and more extensive analyses than were envisaged by the primary analysts; academic researchers who may want to investigate issues of relevance to the wider debates on economic and social development; non-governmental organizations who wish to make more informed decisions about a country; and others. Because of low analytical capacity and restricted access to microdata, many surveys remain largely under-exploited. Fostering access to properly documented microdata by qualified researchers can be a cost-effective solution to rapidly increase the diversity and quantity of data analysis and use.

10. To achieve the ADP objectives in each pilot country, three types of activities will be implemented:

Inventory, documentation and dissemination of existing survey microdata. The first program activity⁶ comprises the preservation and proper documentation of existing survey data making them more widely and easily accessible to secondary users with a view to fostering better and more diverse analysis and use. This particular objective will be achieved by supporting the participating countries in implementing international best practices in microdata documentation, anonymization, and dissemination. The expected outputs of this activity are (i) survey datasets documented in compliance with international standards and best-practices, available to secondary users for further analytical and research work; and (ii) increased capacity and awareness for the management and dissemination of microdata in the selected countries.

Analysis of existing survey data and assessment of the past survey program. The second program activity supports further analysis of existing data by specialized researchers. The expected outputs of this activity include the production and analysis of

⁶ The three activities do not necessarily have to be implemented in the same sequence as they are listed. Most likely, the three activities will be implemented concurrently.

updated or improved estimates for key indicators, a detailed assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the data, and recommendations for improving data collection methods and practices in the country.

Development of an improved survey program, and data collection. The third program comprises designing an improved mid-term survey program, and support for data collection activities where needed. For countries with no established survey program, an important task will be to prepare specifications for a minimum survey program. Various prototypes of national survey programs have been proposed, recommending various combinations of light and more ambitious surveys. Muñoz and Scott⁷ proposed a model based on existing international survey programs, which would allow the production of all 25 household-based MDG indicators and many other indicators required for monitoring and evaluation (PRSPs and others) within a 5-year period. Table 2 below presents an adapted version of this prototype model. As is the case with any prototype survey programs, the proposed model is not fully adequate to all countries. It will have to be adjusted to country-specific needs and capacities, and take into account the on-going and planned survey activities and other key issues. Close links need to be maintained or established between data users and data producers, i.e. mechanisms for user and producer interaction as well as mechanisms to assess user satisfaction must be in place. Basic resources must be available, as inadequate funding often leads to unsatisfactory supervision of the fieldwork, and hence to poor data quality. And the program needs to be continuous, in order to maintain quality, sustain capacity, improve efficiency, promote data use, and meet additional data demands at marginal cost.

⁷ *Household Surveys and the Millennium Development Goals* (draft). 2004. Muñoz J. and Kinnon Scott. Prepared for the Paris21 Task Force on Improved Statistical Support for Monitoring Development Goals.

Table 2 - A prototype 5-year survey program

► Indicator can be obtained from the corresponding survey

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Household-based MDG indicators	DHS/ MICS	CWIQ /PS	IS / LSMS (*)		CWIQ/ PS	PC
1. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day				►		
2. Poverty gap ratio [incidence x depth of poverty]				►		
3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption				►		
4. Prevalence of underweight children < 5 years of age	►			►		
5. % of pop. below min. level of dietary energy consumption				►		
6. Net enrollment ratio in primary education	►	►		►	►	►
7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5	►	►		►	►	
8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds	►	►		►	►	►
9. Ratios of girls/ boys in primary, secondary, tertiary educ.	►	►		►	►	►
10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year-olds	►	►		►	►	►
11. Share of women in wage employ. in the non-agric. sector	►/ -			►		►
13. Under-five mortality rate	►					►
14. Infant mortality rate	►					►
15. Prop. of 1 yr.-old children immunized against measles	►	►		►	►	
16. Maternal mortality ratio	►					►
17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	►	►		►	►	►
18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women	►/ -					
19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	►/ -			►		
20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS	►/ -					
22. % of pop. using effective malaria prevention/treatment	►/ -			►		
29. Proportion of population using solid fuels	►/ -	►		►	►	►
30. % of population with access to an improved water source	►	►		►	►	►
31. % of urban population with access to improved sanitation	►	►		►	►	►
32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure				►		►
45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, each sex and total				►		►
47. Telephone lines, cellular subscribers per 1000 population		►		►	►	►
48. Personal computers in use & internet users per 1000 pop.				►		

CWIQ = Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (World Bank), characterized by large samples and short questionnaires

DHS = Demographic and Health Survey (USAID/ORC Macro International Inc.)

IS = Integrated Survey (multi-topic household survey, similar to LSMS)

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PC = Population and Housing Census; United Nations recommend implementation of population censuses every 10 years.

PS = Priority Survey

(*) As an IS or LSMS survey requires long preparation and 12 months of data collection, two years are necessary to generate the indicators.

11. The types of activities to be implemented will vary from country to country. Some countries may already have relatively well established survey programs, in which case the objective will be to maximize the use of existing data and to improve data collection, dissemination practices and methods, and analysis. Other countries may have weaker data collection programs, in which case the focus may be on data collection activities. Broadly, countries can be categorized in three groups:

- *Group 1:* Countries with relatively well established survey program and national statistical strategy. In these countries, the priorities are to increase the value of existing data (through the adoption of standards and best practices in microdata dissemination), the assessment of survey methods and instruments, and data analysis. The program will not finance data collection in these countries.

- *Group 2:* Countries with irregular, ad-hoc, and largely donor-driven survey programs. The priorities for such countries will be to assess and make the best possible use of existing data, to define proper mid-term data collection programs (and secure funding for their implementation), and to collect new data.
- *Group 3:* Countries with very limited or no survey program, weak statistical offices, lack of physical and statistical infrastructure, and major data gaps. Typically, such countries will be countries in conflict or post-conflict situation, or very small countries receiving little external support to statistics.
 - In post-conflict countries, the demand for data is often considerable, and small-scale data collection activities are often undertaken (sometimes by non-governmental organizations) with insufficient concern for statistical soundness and comparability. The priority for such countries would be to assess existing data (if any), to prioritize the information needs, and to conduct some simple but statistically sound surveys.
 - In addition to receiving little support to statistical activities, very small countries face specific methodological and logistical problems (see for example the island Pacific island countries, where access to the population living in distant atolls poses specific sampling and accessibility issues).

Scaling-up the Accelerated Data Program

12. If data availability and quality in Sub-Saharan Africa is to be improved to levels sufficient to provide data for measuring development results by 2010 and 2015, there is a need to move beyond the pilot phase of the Accelerated Data Program as quickly as possible. An illustration of this “scaling-up” is shown in Table 3, using knowledge of past household survey programs to project what future survey programs might look like and overlaying a notional “model” household survey program on this projection. It should be noted that this project is purely illustrative; although it uses information on past surveys, it is not based on any plans that countries or donors may have for future programs in specific countries.

13. The cost of this notional ADP for Africa was estimated at an average of \$109m per year (\$38m for surveys, and \$71m for censuses).⁸ This would represent an incremental cost of around \$43m per year, compared to average levels of financing for surveys and censuses during the period 2000-2005. Implementation of such a scaled-up program would require common standards and strong coordination. This could be achieved by pooling resources into a central fund to leverage country-level resources.

⁸ Estimates are based on standard cost for each type of survey. See table 3.

Table 3. An illustrative 10-year (2006-2015) minimum survey/census program for Sub-Saharan Africa (IDA countries)

	Capacity score	Population (Million)	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
● Angola	37	13.5	I	M				M
● Benin	55	6.7		D	C, P			
● Burkina Faso	63	12.1				D, P		M
● Burundi	40	7.2	M					M
● Cameroon	48	16.1		I, M			D	M
● Cape Verde	37	0.5	C	I				M
● Central African Rep.	37	3.9	M			C		M
● Chad	55	8.6	M		P		D	
● Comoros	25	0.6	M		C			
● Congo, Dem. Rep.	38	53.2		M				P
● Congo, Rep.	38	3.8						P, D
● Côte d'Ivoire	80	16.8	M		P			
● Eritrea	38	4.4			D		C	
● Ethiopia	65	68.6	D, I				C, P	I, D
● Gambia, The	53	1.4	M			C		M
● Ghana	57	20.4	C			D, P		M
● Guinea	52	7.9	I		I			D
● Guinea-Bissau	28	1.5	M		P			M
● Kenya	60	31.9	M			D, P		I
● Lesotho	67	1.8	M	C	P		D	
● Liberia	20	3.4				C		D
● Madagascar	55	16.9	M	P		D		
● Malawi	60	11.0	D		P		D, I	
● Mali	55	11.7		D, P		P		
● Mauritania	55	2.7	C, D, I			P		
● Mozambique	67	18.8	P		P, I	D		
● Niger	60	11.8	M	C	P			D, P
● Nigeria	50	135.6	M	I	P	D, I		
● Rwanda	53	8.3	D, M		C	P		D
● Sao Tome & Princ.	32	0.2	P	C				M
● Senegal	73	10.0	M	P	C			D
● Sierra Leone	37	5.3	M			I	C	M
● Somalia	12	9.6						M
● Sudan	23	33.5	M					M
● Tanzania	62	35.9	I		C		D	
● Togo	45	4.9	M					M
● Uganda	70	25.3	D		C, I			
● Zambia	63	10.4	C	D	I			M
● Zimbabwe	63	13.1			C			D

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
P	C	I		D	P	P	I			M
D	P	I		M	P	C	I			D
C	I		D	P	P	I			M	P
I	I	M	P	C	I		D		P	P
P	C	I		D	P	P	I			M
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
D	P	P	I		M	P	C	I		
D	I		P	C	I		D		P	P
C	I		M	P	P	I		D		P
D	P	C	I		D	P	P	I		
P	P	D	P	I		M	P	C	I	
I	P	P	P	I		M	P	C	I	
P	P	P	I		M	P	C	I		
I		P	P	C	I		D		P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
P	I		M	P	C	I		D		P
D	P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
P	C	I		D	P	P	I			M
P	I		M	P	C	I		D		P
C	I		D	P	P	I		D		M
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P
I		M	P	C	I		D		P	P
C	I		D	P	P	I		D		M
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P
I		P	P	C	I		D		P	P
D	P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P
D	I		P	C	I		M		P	P
P	P	I		M	P	C	I		D	P

Estimated cost (Million US\$):						
Cost of the minimum survey/census program:	55.1	25.0	110.6	93.5	89.3	23.5
Average annual cost 2000-2005:	66.2					

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Surveys only (no census):	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.6	156.0
Censuses only:	47.2	33.7	33.9	36.6	30.6	42.4	30.1	51.1	37.6	42.8	386.1
Total:	235.9	84.0	75.8	71.1	193.7	57.9	144.2	57.5	131.2	42.8	1094.1

- Low statistical capacity; requires intensive additional statistical capacity building [14]
- Limited statistical capacity; requires significant statistical capacity building [11]
- Higher capacity; data collection only requires specialized capacity building [14]

Typical cost

- C = Population Census (assume annual pop. growth rate of 2%) \$1/person
- D = Demographic and Health survey (DHS) 1,900K
- I = Integrated or Living Standards Measurement Survey (IS/LSMS) 950K
- M = Multiple Indicator Clusters Survey (MICS Unicef) 340K
- P = Priority or Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) survey 550K
- Annual allocation for other household surveys (e.g., labor force surveys) 400K

Notes:
The table presents a prototype of a minimum survey/census program based on standard survey instruments. The proposed sequence of surveys takes into account the actual 2001-2005 survey program of each country. This proposed program is NOT based on actual country survey plans for 2006-2015.

To foster capacity building and to avoid over-burdening the national statistical systems, the proposed program includes only one nationwide survey per year (IS/LSMS/HIES surveys may require 12 months of data collection; two years may be needed to implement them).

