



# Positioning household surveys for the next decade

The work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

Coordinator, Haoyi Chen

# Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

- Established at 46<sup>th</sup> Session of UNSC in 2015
- Current (rotating) co-chairs: UN Women and WB
- Secretariat: UNSD
- Members: 11 international agencies and 8 countries

- Improve **coordination**: surveys within the country and efforts at the global level
- Advance (cross-cutting) survey **methodology**
- Enhance **communication and advocacy**



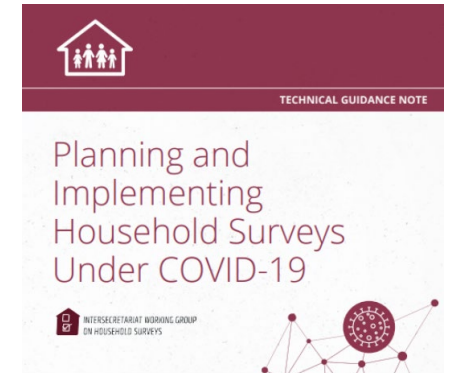
-  Colombia - Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística
-  Ghana - Ghana Statistical Services
-  India - Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
-  Malaysia - Department of Statistics Malaysia
-  Niger - Institut National de la Statistique
-  Samoa - Samoa Bureau of Statistics
-  State of Palestine - Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
-  Sweden - Statistics Sweden

# Household surveys are critical for research, policy and development

- Fundamental component of NSS, providing the data to assess progress towards national development targets
- 1/3 of 232 indicators for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), cutting across 13 out of 17 SDG goals, can be derived from household surveys
- Household surveys can provide the required data to train and validate alternative data sources for high-resolution, high-frequency insights for monitoring, targeting and evaluation

# Selected output - 1

- Survey coordination
  - Toolkit to assess coordination of national household survey programmes
  - Work with 5 countries and 1 sub-regional office to understand their household survey systems
  - Compiling information on surveys from major survey repositories
  - [COVID-19 rapid survey compilation](#)
- Innovative survey approaches
  - [Planning and Implementing Household Surveys under COVID-19](#)
  - [Spatial Anonymization](#)
  - Impact of Covid on survey data quality (forthcoming)
  - Data integration (requested by countries, scoping stage)



## Spatial Anonymization

Guidance Note prepared for the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

January 2021

# Selected output - 2

- SDG data disaggregation
  - Counted and Visible Toolkit
  - Small area estimation for SDGs: guidelines and eLearning courses
  - Sampling to leave no one behind



**f** The [Counted and Visible Toolkit to Better Utilize Existing Data from Household Surveys to Generate Disaggregated Gender Statistics](#) (Counted and Visible Toolkit) provides a compilation of tools and mechanisms used by several countries to produce evidence to inform gender-responsive policies and catalyze actions to leave no one behind. The selected countries are linked to UN Women's global gender data programme, [Women Count](#).

**m** The toolkit was developed by UN Women, in collaboration with the [Interpreting Working Groups on Household Surveys \(IWGHS\)](#), and benefited from the outcomes of the [Counted and Visible global conference](#) in 2019.

[Explore the toolkit](#)

SAE4SDG

- Pages
- Blog
- SPACE SHORTCUTS
  - Documents and case stu...
  - First all member meetin...
  - How-to articles
- PAGE TREE
  - How to use Confluence
  - Motivating SAE
  - Producing SAE
  - Communicating SAE
  - SAE by SDGs
  - SAE for vulnerable populati...
  - From SAE experiment to pro...
  - SAE practices
    - Asian Development Bank
    - Australia
    - Chile
    - Colombia
    - FAO
    - Indonesia
    - Malaysia

Dashboard 475 views

## SAE4SDG

Created by UNSD Clarence Lio, last modified by Haoyi Chen on Jun 05, 2021

### Welcome to the Toolkit for using Small Area Estimation for the SDGs!

In committing to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States recognized that the dignity of the individuals is fundamental and that the Agenda's Goals and targets should be met for all nations and people and for all segments of society. Ensuring that these commitments are translated into effective action requires a precise understanding of the target populations and progress made in addressing their particular priorities.

To properly measure this, statistics need to be presented for different population groups and geographical areas. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator framework has included an overarching principle of data disaggregation: SDG indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

To enable national statistical offices to estimate disaggregated indicators, guidelines are needed to support the process. The idea of writing guidelines on how to use statistical methods and, in particular small area estimation (SAE), to receive disaggregated statistical indicators is not new. Some focus on methodological aspects, others provide methodology in a specific program language or focus on a specific topic as poverty mapping. Usability of SAE for official statistics has also been carried out over the past 10 years. So how do these guidelines differ from the existing work?

The **SAE4SDG Toolkit** in Wiki is to provide a space to provide information on methods to produce disaggregated data through small area estimation. It aims to complement and use the existing methodological work and case studies to encourage and enable national statistical offices to use SAE for the monitoring of the SDGs. The Toolkit will be an evolving project/document that will incorporate newly available methods, case studies and practical examples in future versions. The Toolkit also focuses on key steps to help countries in moving from SAE experiment to official data production. Finally, the Toolkit aims to be a space for partners to document and include references for their work on small area estimation.

#### What to expect

The SAE4SDG Toolkit targets practitioners and technical staff in National Statistical Offices and other institutions within the National Statistical System that are interested in using: While the Toolkit provides information on SAE models and the process around building the models, it also offers discussions around elements that help countries make the transition. This is to respond to the challenges that the use in official statistics is still rather limited even though the method has been around for a long time.

The limitations of direct estimation, i.e., the estimation solely based on the survey data, are illustrated and used to motivate the usage of small area estimation.

The guidelines follow a **production framework** suggested by Tzavidis et al (2018). For each production step, explanations are provided and three examples are conducted. The sha used to replicate the examples and to give guidance for real applications. Furthermore, an overview of recommended literature, projects and case studies by country and agency i statistical software providing functions for small area estimation.

The produced statistical indicators usually need to be **visualized and communicated** to the public or policy makers. Therefore, some ideas for this task are shared.

Please note that the provided data cannot be used for real analysis and the results of the statistical exercises cannot be interpreted in any kind



One Behind

- Pages
- Blog
- SPACE SHORTCUTS
  - How to use Confluence
- PAGE TREE
  - Introduction
  - Chapter 1. Policy relevance for
  - Chapter 2. Population groups <
  - Chapter 3. An overview of chal
  - Chapter 4. An overview of sam
  - Chapter 5. Guidance on sampli
  - Chapter 6. Sampling versus sui
  - Chapter 7. Documenting samp
  - How to use Confluence
  - Documents and literature

## Sampling to Leave No One Behind

Created by Paul Pacheco (UNSD), last modified by Haoyi Chen just a moment ago

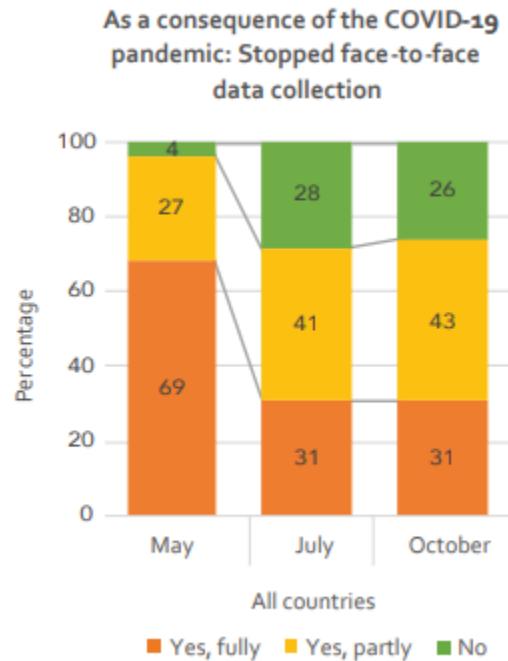
Welcome to the Wiki site for collaborative work on Sampling to Leave No One Behind!

- Introduction
- Chapter 1. Policy relevance for SDG data disaggregation and implication on sampling
- Chapter 2. Population groups covered by the Guidance
- Chapter 3. An overview of challenges in sampling certain population groups
- Chapter 4. An overview of sampling strategies
- Chapter 5. Guidance on sampling various population groups: concepts and definitions, sampling methods and country practices
  - Income, poor and extreme poor
  - Sex (gender)
  - Age (including children and older persons)
  - Race and ethnicity (including people with African descendants)
  - Migratory status (including migrants, forced displaced)
  - Disability
  - Geographic location (including urban/rural)
  - LGBT (gender identity and/or sexual orientation)
  - Drug users
  - Homeless
  - Prisoners
- Chapter 6. Sampling versus survey design - taking a holistic approach
- Chapter 7. Documenting sampling methods
- Chapter 8. Conclusions and the way forward

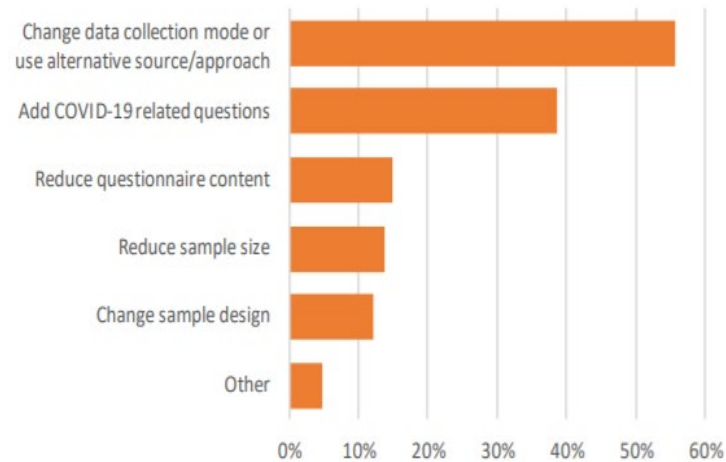
## Outreach and communication

- Restructuring website and incorporating survey training materials and methodological publications
- Webinars: partner with regional commissions
- Monthly newsletter
- Blogs
- Yammer household survey group, as part of the Global Network of Data officers & Statisticians
- Questionnaire summary

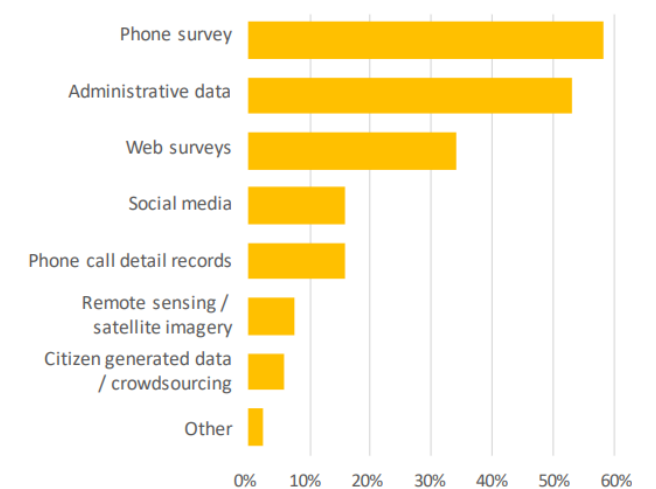
# COVID-19 led to major disruptions in household surveys, while providing an opportunity for innovation



If you had to alter a planned survey because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which changes did / will you introduce?



Is your institution using alternative/nontraditional data sources/approaches to analyze or monitor aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic?



**Source:** [Global COVID-19 Survey of National Statistical Offices \(Rounds 1-3\).](#)

## *Positioning household surveys for the next decade: Objectives*

- Identify priority technical areas and sketch out the required enabling environment for household surveys to perform their foundational roles, meet new data demands, and increase their policy and research impact in the remaining decade for the SDGs



# *Positioning household surveys for the next decade: Outline*

Organized around 4 pillars:

- Increase **relevance** and **use** of household surveys for policy and research
- Pursue an ambitious agenda on the adoption of **innovative methods**
- Invest in **capacity** for CAPI, phone, web and mixed-mode surveys
- Improve **interoperability** of household surveys with other data sources

Plus:

- Foster stronger **enabling environment**

# The Role of Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys



Created by Shireen Frost  
from NCAE Project

- Foster **coordination** at the national and international level: planning, financing and implementation
- Collaborate with all partners: NSOs, CSO, Academia
- Serve as an intermediary: Innovation  $\leftrightarrow$  national data needs
- Curate and disseminate best practices



Created by Shireen Frost  
from NCAE Project

- Encourage and support experimentation with and scaling-up of **innovative methods**
- Support the formulation of guidelines on select topics, anchored in experimentation and evidence



- Promote documentation and exchange of national experiences
- **Advocate** for better financing of household survey programs



- Set priorities as guided by countries

**For more information**

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[unstats.un.org/iswghs](https://unstats.un.org/iswghs)