



THE INTER-SECRETARIAT  
**WORKING GROUP ON  
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS**

# Shaping the Next Edition of the United Nations Handbook on Household Surveys

Haoyi Chen, UNSD

Ian O'Sullivan, ONS, UK

UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistical Data  
Collection and Sources 2024



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

# Revision of the UN Handbook on Household Surveys

- ❑ Mandated by the UN Statistical Commission, March 2024
- ❑ The [previous versions](#):
  - United Nations Handbook on Household Surveys, 1984
  - Other handbooks covering different aspects of household surveys: 1982-2008
- ❑ Guided by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS)
- ❑ Draft handbook to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission March 2026

# ISWGHS' Position Paper on Household Surveys is a departure point for the planned revision

❑ Organized around **8 technical priorities**:

1. Enhancing the **interoperability and integration** of household surveys
2. Designing and implementing more **inclusive**, respondent-centric surveys
3. Improving **sampling** efficiency and coverage
4. Scaling up the use of **objective measurement** technologies
5. Building capacity for CAPI, phone, web, and **mixed-mode surveys**
6. Systematizing the collection, storage, and use of **paradata and metadata**
7. Incorporating **machine learning and artificial intelligence** for data quality control and analysis
8. Improving **data access, discoverability, and dissemination**.

❑ Plus:

- Foster stronger **enabling environment**: at **national** and **global** level

[Positioning Household Surveys for the Next Decade](#)



# Consultations

- ❑ Objectives: To ensure the revised Handbook is practical that meets the needs of national statistical offices and other users within the national statistical systems.
- ❑ Consultation with:
  - Key experts in the household survey field (Nov – Dec 2023)
  - United Nations Inaugural meeting on the Revision of the Handbooks of the Household Surveys, 22-24 Jan. 2024
  - Regional consultations (April – June 2024)
    - Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with ESCAP: April 2024
    - Latin America and the Caribbeans, in collaboration with ECLAC: May 2024
    - Europe, UNECE Expert Meeting on Statistical Data Collection and Sources 2024: May 2024
    - Africa: June 2024
  - Thematic areas: June 2024

# Major recommendations from countries/experts

- ❑ Having a revised "core" handbook, building on the foundation of the 1984
- ❑ Following broadly the GSBPM phases
- ❑ With an overarching theme, covering survey project management and how a survey fits into the broader national data ecosystem
- ❑ Balancing theoretical principles with practical advice and offering examples and tools; distinguishing principles from emerging ideas that are still experimental
- ❑ Taking into account specific needs of SIDS and countries under/post conflict
- ❑ Making reference to existing materials
- ❑ Keeping the revised Handbook easier to access and updated:
  - Printed copies
  - A web-based platform with links to software and tools
  - AI chatbot

# Content

Chapter	Topic
1	Introduction
2	Needs, Scope and Business Case
3	Survey Management
4	Questionnaire
5	Frame and Sampling
6	Data Collection
7	Data Processing
8	Weighting
9	Analysis
10	Dissemination

## Crosscutting themes across chapters

Quality framework and management

Value for money

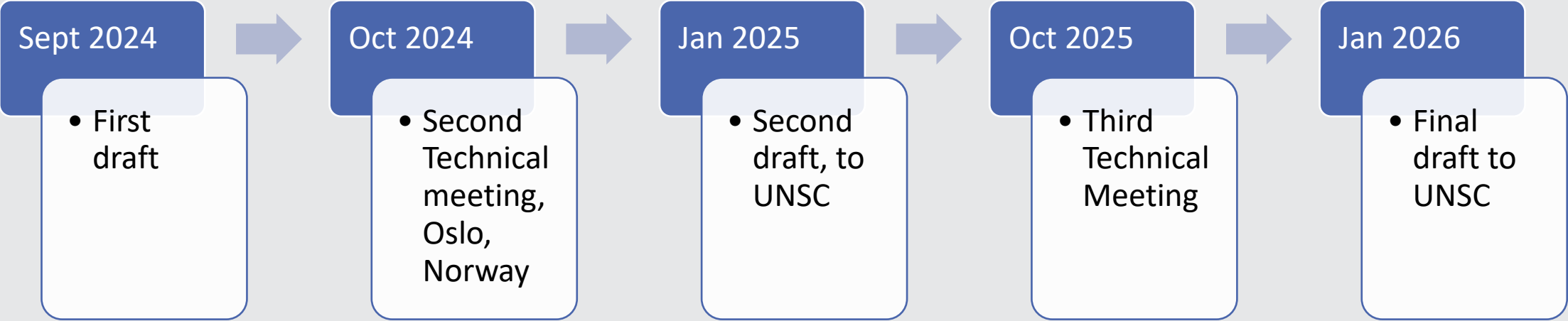
Data integration

Inclusivity

Interoperability

Program management

# Timeline



# Consultations for the revision

## Broad views on the revision:

- Challenges encountered in conducting household surveys;
- The guidance that could be offered by the revision to overcome those challenges;
- Information that has been insufficiently covered in existing guidance on household surveys and should be included in this revision;
- Specific areas/topics/issues that would benefit from the inclusion of case studies or national examples;
- Preferred formats for dissemination to facilitate easier access and updates

## What questions would you ask the “chatbot”?



## How can you contribute?

- Provide references/documents on survey methodologies
- Draft/provide feedback on various stages of the drafting
- Help draft/review
- Provide case studies/examples

Questions?

[iswghs.secretariat@un.org](mailto:iswghs.secretariat@un.org)

