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BASIC INFORMATION DOCUMENT

HARMONIZED HOUSEHOLD LIVING CONDITIONS SURVEY 2021

(EHCVM 2021)

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1. Introduction

This document is designed to provide the necessary information to understand the data from the second edition of the Harmonized Survey on Household Living Conditions, conducted under the Program for the Harmonization and Modernization of Household Living Conditions Surveys. The objective of the Program is to support the UEMOA Commission in strengthening the capacities of its member states to conduct household living conditions surveys that meet regional harmonized standards and to make the collected microdata accessible to the public. One of the main specific objectives is to produce poverty indicators, living conditions indicators, and harmonized databases to facilitate analyses for informing public policies. The beneficiaries are the eight countries within the UEMOA zone: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. The first edition of the survey took place in 2018/19, and the second round, which is the subject of this document, in 2021/22.

The survey comprises four components: a household component, a community component, a price component, and a component on non-standard units (NSU).

Partners

The survey was designed and conducted through collaboration between the National Institutes of Statistics (INS), the UEMOA Commission, and the World Bank. Specifically, the INS played a central role in all phases (design, preparation, data collection, data processing). The UEMOA Commission and the World Bank provided the necessary expertise in coordination to support the harmonization process, ensuring that the produced indicators are comparable. These institutions also supported the modernization process in the data collection phases (CAPI) and methodological phases (e.g., introducing the panel dimension during the second round).

Funding

The project is funded by the World Bank through a grant of $40.2 million to the UEMOA Commission.

Technical Assistance

The UEMOA Commission and the World Bank provided technical assistance to the INS throughout the project's implementation. Technical assistance was provided in the form of missions and regional workshops.

Organization of the Document

This document contains seven sections. Following the introduction, the next section presents the characteristics of the survey. The survey instruments are discussed in section 3, and sampling issues are addressed in section 4. The document then describes the organization of fieldwork in section 5, presents the main data collection results in section 6, and describes the databases in section 7.

2. Survey Characteristics

The household and community components of the survey are organized in two waves, with each wave covering half of the sample. This means that each wave includes half of the sample clusters and half of the sample households. Organizing the work in two waves allows for consideration of seasonal variations in consumption throughout the year. Data collection for the first wave took place from November 17, 2021, to February 13, 2022. For the second wave, the data collection phase occurred from June 3 to August 31, 2022.

The price component is organized differently, with data collected monthly throughout the entire data collection period, including during the break between the two waves. Price data were collected from January to September 2022.

The last component of the survey relates to non-standard units (NSU). This component allows for the production of conversion factors to transform the non-standard consumption units used in households (pile, bowl, ear) into standard units (kilogram, liter). Information on NSUs was collected during the 2018/19 round, and the produced conversion factors are still valid. Therefore, in principle, it was not necessary to conduct another round of data collection for this component. [However, there was a supplementary data collection to complete some missing units. This collection took place from June 22 to July 17, 2022].

3. Data collection instruments

Household Questionnaire

The survey consists of four questionnaires: a household questionnaire, a community questionnaire, a price questionnaire, and a non-standard units questionnaire.

- **Household Questionnaire**: This questionnaire collects information at both the household and individual levels. The sections to be filled out at the household level include: control section, food consumption, food security, non-food expenditures, existence of agricultural businesses, housing, household assets, monetary transfers, shocks, safety nets, agriculture, livestock, fishing, agricultural equipment, subjective poverty, governance, and insecurity. The sections that collect information at the individual level include: socio-demographic characteristics of household members, education, health, employment, individual non-employment income, savings, and characteristics of non-agricultural businesses. The content of the household questionnaire is detailed below:
  - **Coverage**: Contains information related to the identification and geospatial location of the household. This section also records basic information about the head of the surveyed household.
  - **Section 0: Control Information**: This section provides detailed geographical location information of the household, including the GPS coordinates of the household. It also records data on the conduct of the interview, visit dates and the language of the interview.
  - **Section 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Household**: Concerns all household members. It includes a list of household individuals and provides socio-demographic

characteristics such as relationship to the head of household, age, marital status, religion, residency status, nationality, ethnicity, parental survival, educational level, activity branch, and occupation of the father and mother, etc.

- o **Section 2: Education**: Concerns individuals aged three years and older. It includes variables for literacy, schooling, and educational level. The section also provides information on the individual's path through the school system, including difficulties encountered and expenses incurred.
- o **Section 3: General Health**: Completed by all household members. It provides information on major health issues and consultations that household members had in the 30 days preceding the surveyor's visit. The section addresses major constraints and difficulties regarding the quality and access to health services. It then examines consultations and health expenditures over the last three months, and hospitalizations and expenditures in the 12 months preceding the survey.
- o **Section 4: Employment**: Dedicated to household members aged 5 and older. It has three subsections: labor market participation, primary employment, and secondary employment.
    - ▪ **Part A: Labor Market Participation**: Collects information on labor market participation for all individuals aged 5 and older. It specifically includes the household member's schedule and variables to capture their labor market participation in the 7 days preceding the surveyor's visit. It also covers the job search process 30 days before the surveyor's visit.
    - ▪ **Part B: Primary Employment**: Concerns individuals who had a job in the last 12 months and collects information on the characteristics of their primary employment. Data collected include profession, activity branch, socio-professional category, institutional sector, and for salaried employees, salary, and other benefits in kind.
    - ▪ **Part C: Secondary Employment**: Focuses on information related to secondary employment held in the 12 months preceding the visit for individuals identified as having one. The information collected is identical to that in the previous section.
- o **Section 5: Non-employment Income**: Collects information on non-employment income for all persons aged 15 and older. It explores pensions and other public transfers, rents, and other financial and asset incomes. Private transfers are covered in Section 13.
- o **Section 6: Savings and Credit**: Collects data on access to financial institutions and prepaid services, accumulated savings, loans or credits taken, repayments made, and upcoming payment deadlines for household members aged 15 and older.
- o **Section 7: Food Consumption**: Collects data on household food consumption. Food consumption has two parts: meals taken outside the household by consumption item (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack) and consumption within the household by consumption item. This section has two main parts:
    - ▪ **Part A: Meals Taken Outside the Household**: Collects information on meals consumed by one or more household members in the seven days preceding the surveyor's visit.
    - ▪ **Part B: Food Consumption Within the Household**: Collects information on items consumed within the household in the seven days preceding the surveyor's visit. For each item, the section provides information on the quantities consumed, the mode of acquisition (purchase, self-consumption, gift received). If the consumed product was purchased within the 30 days preceding the interview, the quantity purchased and the purchase value are also collected.

- **Section 8 : Food security** : This module contains information on the household's resource capacity to ensure food security for its members, according to the FAO's FIES approach. Basic food security questions are asked for the 12 months preceding the interview.
- **Section 9 : Non-food Consuptions .** This section includes six subsections covering most non-food expenditures, except for education (section 2), health (section 3), and housing (section 11).
    - **Part A : Celebrations in the Last 12 Months**: Provides data on expenses incurred during celebrations such as religious holidays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. Variables covered include food, drinks, clothing and shoes, hall rentals, etc.
    - **Part B : Non-food Consumption - Last 7 Days**: Provides information on non-food expenditures as frequent as food expenditures, such as cigarettes, kerosene, firewood, fuel, urban transport, newspapers, etc. The main variable recorded is the amount spent.
    - **Part C : Non-food Consumption - Last 30 Days**: Provides information on expenditures for items such as wine and liquor, domestic gas, domestic staff salaries, and other relatively frequent household operating expenses. The main variable recorded is the amount spent.
    - **Part D : Non-food Consumption - Last 3 Months**: Provides information on expenditures for items such as interurban transport, entertainment costs, postal services, gardening, pet care, etc. The main variable recorded is the amount spent.
    - **Part E : Non-food Consumption - Last 6 Months**: Provides information on expenditures for clothing and shoes purchased other than for celebrations. The main variable recorded is the amount spent.
    - **Part F : Non-food Consumption - Last 12 Months**: Relates to annual or less frequent expenditures such as housing investment, housing repairs, international travel, acquisition of durable goods, etc. The main variable recorded is the amount spent.

- **Section 10: Non-agricultural Businesses**: Concerns non-agricultural businesses owned by the household.
    - **Part A: Existence of Non-agricultural Businesses**: This part records whether the household owns at least one non-agricultural business.
    - **Part B: Characteristics of Non-agricultural Businesses**: Collects detailed information on non-agricultural businesses owned by the household. It includes information on the business owner, activity branch, age of the business, degree of formalization, variables to calculate accounting aggregates, and family and salaried labor.

- **Section 11: Housing**: Concerns the characteristics of the household's housing (type of materials used for the roof, floor, walls), amenities (electricity, water and sanitation, toilets, etc.). It also details housing expenses (rent, water bills, electricity bills, landline telephone bills, etc.).
- **Section 12: Household Assets**: Provides data on the household's assets. Items included in this section are household appliances, furniture, transportation means, etc. The assets must be in good working condition. For each asset, the number owned by the

household is recorded, and for the most recently acquired asset, the age, acquisition value, and replacement cost are noted.

- **Section 13: Transfers Received by the Household**: Contains data on transfers received by the household from other households. It provides detailed information on the sender's characteristics, reason for the transfer, transaction channel, and amount.
- **Section 14: Shocks and Coping Strategies**: Records shocks experienced by the household. It has two parts:
  - **Part A: COVID-19**: Relates to shocks directly resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This subsection lists potential shocks (illness, reduced work hours, decreased transfers, etc.) and elaborates on how each shock affects the household.
  - **Part B: Other Shocks and Coping Strategies**: Covers questions related to employment, income, health, natural disasters, etc. It provides detailed information on the consequences of shocks and any strategies used to mitigate their impacts.
- **Section 15: Safety Nets**: Records access to social security programs such as food distribution, free healthcare for children and pregnant women. Variables collected include the nature and frequency of aid received, and the exact beneficiaries within the household.
- **Section 16: Agriculture**: Relates to agricultural activities practiced by the household. It includes four subsections:

  - **Part A: Plots**: Provides information on the characteristics of plots cultivated by the household, including the identity of the farmer, the size of each plot, crops grown, land tenure, labor, use of inputs, etc.
  - **Part B: Input Costs**: Contains data on the cost of inputs used by the household. It includes information on the quantity used, source of supply, and input costs.
  - **Part C: Crops**: Provides a list of crops grown on household plots. For each crop cultivated on a given plot, the questionnaire includes information on harvests.
  - **Part D: Production Use**: For each crop, this subsection addresses the use of the production (consumption, sale, storage).

- **Section 17: Livestock**: This section is dedicated to the household's livestock activities. The household may own these animals or raise them for others. For each type of animal, the section provides information on the number of animals owned, the operational costs incurred, and the revenue from the sale of livestock products (animals, meat, milk, eggs, and other by-products).
- **Section 18: Fishing**: This section includes questions about the household's participation in fishing activities. It provides information on the quantities and types of fish caught, operational costs, generated income, etc.
- **Section 19: Agricultural Equipment**: This section lists the equipment owned by the household for agricultural, livestock, and fishing activities. For each type of equipment, the section provides information on its age, purchase price, and the current estimated value as assessed by the household.
- **Section 20: Subjective Poverty, Governance, Peace, and Security**: This section provides information on topics related to monetary poverty and living conditions.

- **Part A: Subjective Poverty**: This subsection provides indicators to help the household position itself on the well-being spectrum, according to its own assessment of its living standards.
- **Part B: Governance**: This subsection addresses governance issues, including individual freedoms, participation in major decisions, corruption, etc.
- **Part C: Peace and Security**: The final part deals with security, aiming to assess whether the population feels safe and if individuals have been victims of aggression.

The Community Questionnaire

This instrument was used to collect essential information about local communities. It is completed in the form of a focus group, in the village/neighborhood where the cluster is located. It contains four main sections that collect general data about the community, basic social infrastructure, agricultural activity, and the population's participation in community activities.

- **Cover**: The cover contains geospatial location information of the cluster. This section also includes basic information about the head of the surveyed community.
- **Section 0: Respondents**: This section contains the list of people who provided the collected information about the community. It also gathers the following sociodemographic characteristics of these respondents: gender, age, role in the community, number of years living in the community, and literacy level.
- **Section 1: General Characteristics of the Community**: This section collects sociodemographic, economic, geographic, and living conditions information at the community level. This information includes population size, spoken languages, topography, distance to the nearest city, accessibility, organizational associations, access to electricity, drinking water, and mobile phone networks.
- **Section 2: Existence and Accessibility of Social Services**: This section relates to the social infrastructure present in the community. For each infrastructure, the questionnaire provides information on accessibility, such as means of transport to access the infrastructure, the time needed between the community and the infrastructure, and the problems encountered when using the service.
- **Section 3: Agriculture**: This section provides information about the community's agricultural activity. It collects information on the crops grown, the existence of agricultural cooperatives, access to agricultural equipment, and the possible use of improved agricultural techniques, etc.
- **Section 4: Community Participation**: This subsection collects data on citizen participation in community life and their sense of ownership when it comes to building and maintaining infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, health centers, boreholes/wells, and markets.

The Consumer Price Questionnaire

The price component is designed to record prices in a sample of markets. The surveys are conducted monthly at sales points in sample localities. In each region, at least two localities are selected (one urban and one rural). The sales points include markets, shops, supermarkets, etc. The price questionnaire records prices for food and non-food consumer goods, using the nomenclature of the consumption modules of the household questionnaire.

4. Sampling

Sampling Plan

The survey is a cluster panel survey, and the sampling plan is based on the 2018/19 survey. Therefore, it is appropriate to describe the 2018/19 plan.

The 2018/19 sample was designed to ensure precision for the variable of interest, which is the annual per capita consumption. For a sample size of [xxxxx households], the precision was […] at the national level and varied from […] to […] for the regions.

Table 1. Distribution of the Initial Sample (Households)

	Wave 1			Wave 2			Total general	Precision
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total		
Agadez	142	176	318	131	180	311	629	7,4%
Diffa	132	264	396	155	228	383	779	6,8%
Dosso	131	286	417	106	295	401	818	4,1%
Maradi	96	395	491	132	348	480	971	5,4%
Tahoua	106	348	453	132	311	443	897	4,0%
Tillabéri	106	240	336	192	203	395	731	5,0%
Zinder	120	417	537	120	420	540	1077	4,7%
Niamey	354		354	366		366	720	4,0%
Total	1177	2126	3303	1334	1985	3319	6622	**1,8%**

Sampling Frame

The sampling frame for the 2018/19 survey was the general population and housing census (RGPH) of [SPECIFY THE YEAR]. In 2021/22, a count was conducted in the same clusters. Following the enumeration phase, the strategy outlined above was applied.

Sampling Strategy

The 2018/19 survey sample was drawn using a two-stage stratified sampling plan. The stratum is the combination of region/locality. In each stratum, at the first stage, clusters (primary sampling units) were selected with probability proportional to their size in the number of households. At the second stage, 12 households were selected with equal probability within each cluster.

In 2021/22, the strategy was to revisit the same clusters. This involved either surveying the 12 households from 2018/19 if they were found (after the enumeration phase) or surveying the households that were found and supplementing the sample to 12 in clusters where fewer households were found

during the enumeration phase (either because there were fewer than 12 households in the final 2018/19 database or because some households were not found).

5. Data Collection

Organization of Fieldwork

Data collection in 2021/22 was organized in two waves, just like in 2018/19. The survey mobilized 56 field agents, including 42 interviewers and 14 controllers/team leaders. Data collection for the first wave took place from November 17, 2021, to February 13, 2022. For the second wave, data collection occurred from June 3 to August 31, 2022. The work was organized to start almost simultaneously in all strata and to finish almost simultaneously.

Collection Method

The CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interview) technique with the "Survey Solution" (SuSo) software was used for data collection. Three levels of control were implemented. First, the interviewers performed the controls directly integrated into the collection application; then the team leaders reviewed the questionnaires by executing the same controls before validating and transmitting them to the headquarters; finally, the headquarters team ran a quality and rejection control program on a set of questionnaires. The program detected any questionnaires with potential serious errors, such as entire sections not filled out, households without a unique head, households without any source of income, households with excessively high calorie consumption, etc. Two options were applied at headquarters: automatic rejection of the questionnaire or discussions with the field team before making a decision.

6. Collection Results

As previously mentioned, data was collected in two waves, each wave covering half of the sample. The table below shows the distribution of the final sample, with households (top box) and individuals (bottom box).

Table 2. Number of Households and Individuals in the Final Database

	Wave 1 household Individuals			Wave 2 Household Individuals			
Region	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
Agadez	142	176	318	131	180	311	629
	981	991	1972	824	1029	1853	3825

Diffa	132	264	396	156	227	383	779
	885	1616	2501	878	1391	2269	4770
Dosso	131	286	417	106	295	401	818
	819	2081	2900	623	2036	2659	5559
Maradi	97	394	491	132	348	480	971
	715	3094	3809	920	2658	3578	7387
Tahoua	106	348	454	132	311	443	897
	708	2289	2997	804	2089	2893	5890
Tillaberi	96	240	336	192	203	395	731
	565	1603	2168	1239	1388	2627	4795
Zinder	120	417	537	120	420	540	1077
	829	2982	3811	811	2764	3575	7386
Niamey	354	0	354	366	0	366	720
	2255	0	2255	2213	0	2213	4468
Total	1178	2125	3303	1335	1984	3319	6622
	7757	14656	22413	8312	13355	21667	44080

7. Databases

Household Databases

The household databases correspond to the data collected using the household questionnaire. Each section of the questionnaire generally corresponds to a file (in Stata format). The dataset file names consist of three main parts and help create the link between the questionnaire and the Stata databases:

- The first part of the file name refers to the section of the questionnaire (e.g., s00 for section 0, s01 for section 1, s16a for section 16a, etc.).
- The second part is "me," which refers to household data (to distinguish it from community data) and is the same for all household files.
- The third part refers to the country and year of the survey, for example, ner2021 refers to the Niger data for the 2021 edition of the survey.

For example, the file s00_me_NER_2021.dta contains the data for section 0 of Niger for the 2021/22 edition of the survey.

Each database contains the variables for the concerned section. The variables are named with the section number and the variable number. For example, s00q01 corresponds to variable q01 of section s00.

In each file, the variables "cluster" (primary sampling unit) and "household" (household number) are used to identify the household and to match the data. For files with another level (individual, field, etc.), there are one or more additional variables that are easily identifiable in the databases.

Community Databases

The community databases correspond to the data collected using the community questionnaire. They are constructed according to the same logic. In the naming of these databases, the particle "co" is used instead of the particle "me." The identification variable is the cluster.

Auxiliary Databases

There are four main auxiliary databases: Prices, NSU (Non-Standard Units), Survey Weights, and Calories. These databases are briefly described below:

Prices. The price file is named **ehcvm_prix_ner_2021**. This file contains variables related to product prices. Data is collected monthly for each stratum (region/area). The main variables are as follows:

- **Region:** The region of the country where data is collected
- **Area:** Area of residence
- **Year:** Year of collection
- **Month:** Month of collection
- **Week:** Week number in the month
- **Codpr:** Product code for the item being collected
- **Variety:** Variety of the product within the code (a product may have several varieties)
- **Unit:** Unit of measurement
- **Weight:** Weight of the product
- **Price:** Price of the product according to the weight and unit concerned
- [Include other variables that may be in the databases]

NSU. The NSU file is titled **ehcvm_NSU_ner_2021**. This file contains variables related to conversion factors between non-standard units and standard units. Data was collected in 2018 and updated in 2021.

- **Region:** Region of the country where data is collected
- **Area:** Area of residence
- **Codpr:** Product code for the item being collected
- **Unit:** Unit of measurement
- **Size:** Size for the unit considered
- **Weight:** Conversion factor to standard unit

Weights. The weights file is named **ehcvm_ponderations_ner_2021**. Weights are calculated for each household, considering the panel dimension. The variables are as follows:

- **Cluster:** Primary sampling unit
- **Household:** Household number in the cluster
- **Codpr:** Product code for the item being collected
- **hhweight:** Household weight

Calories. The file is titled **calorie_conversion_WA_2021**. This file allows for the conversion to calories per 100 grams of product for West Africa (WA). The variables are as follows:

- **Codpr:** Product code concerned

- **Refuse:** Percentage of waste in the product
- **Cal:** Caloric value of 100 grams of the product

The household, community, and auxiliary databases are in a directory (e.g., "datain") with different subdirectories. The analysis databases, which are described below, are in another directory (e.g., "dataout").

Analysis Databases

Four main databases are created for poverty analysis and other studies: an individual database, a household database, a consumption database, and a database for calculating poverty indicators and other analytical work. The do-files used to create these databases are archived and accompany these files. The databases are described below:

Individual. The individual file is titled **ehcvm_individu_NER_2021**. This file contains variables created for analytical work, either using a single collected variable or combining several variables. As these are analytical variables, imputations may be made on the initial variables.

Household. The household file is titled **ehcvm_menage_ner_2021**. This file contains variables created for analytical work. Some household-level variables are created similarly to those in the individual file. Other variables relate to the head of the household and are drawn from the previous file.

Consumption. The consumption file is titled **ehcvm_conso_ner_2021**. The main variable in this file is the annual consumption per product and acquisition mode.

- **Cluster:** Primary sampling unit
- **Household:** Household number in the cluster
- **Codpr:** Product code for the item being collected
- **Modep:** Mode of acquisition (purchase, self-consumption, received gift, imputed rent, use value of durable goods)
- **Depan:** Annual expenditure

Poverty. The poverty file is titled **ehcvm_welfare_ner_2021**. This file contains variables to calculate poverty indicators and perform other analytical work.

- **Cluster:** Primary sampling unit
- **Household:** Household number in the cluster
- **Region:** Region of the country where data is collected
- **Area:** Area of residence
- **Hhweight:** Household weight
- **Hhsize:** Household size
- **Pcexp:** Welfare measure indicator
- **Zref:** National poverty threshold
- [other variables here]