

Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS)

Task force on

Measuring Food Consumption in Household Surveys

Draft Terms of Reference

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Background

The Inter-secretarial Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) was established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 46th Session in March 2015 with a mandate to

- Developing a work program of methodological research, and promote the development of international statistical standards and other methodological documents related to all relevant phases of survey implementation (design, sampling, data collection, data editing, data processing and analysis, data curation and dissemination).
- Fostering the coordination for the implementation of international survey programs in developing countries, including capacity building initiatives.
- Promoting the use of survey data in policy formulation.

The ISWGHS Management Group has selected the harmonization of food consumption modules used in household surveys as one of the priority tasks for the Group to work on, and has decided to set up a task force for implementing a work program pursuing that objective.

At the 43rd session in 2012, the UNSC endorsed the proposal to establish an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics (IAEG-AG) to bring countries and agencies together to develop and document good practices and guidelines on concepts, methods and statistical standards for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. Given the ongoing work on Food Consumption that has been started by the IAEG-AG it seems natural that this group would start operating as a task force to advance the work on food consumption measurement in coordination with the ISWGHS.

This document describes the terms of reference for the task force.

Objectives

The objective of the task force is to facilitate the development and adoption of new international statistical standards in the area of food consumption data collection in household surveys.

Activities

To achieve this objective the task force will:

- a) Provide a forum for coordination of activities on improving methods and standards, disseminating guidelines, and developing capacity for food consumption measurement in household surveys;

- b) Identify priority needs for coordinated international work on methods and standards for the measurement of food consumption in household surveys;
- c) Review and provide expert guidance on methodologies and identify technical issues in relation to statistics on food consumption from household surveys;
- d) Promote and oversee the implementation of the activities related to improving methodologies and harmonized standards for food consumption measurement, and foster the strengthening of capacities of national statistical agencies to implement them;
- e) Promote the production and dissemination of good practices and learning material and facilitate information sharing across regions and countries, and across different users and producers of food consumption data.

Some of the above mentioned tasks (reviews of methods, preparation of guidelines, systematic assessment of methods and standards and the implementation of methodological research work on best practices in data collection, processing and dissemination) may be commissioned to international agencies, regional or national statistical services or individual experts.

Workplan and Outputs

In its role as the ISWGHS taskforce on food consumption measurement, the IAEG-AG will:

- Contribute to the ISWGHS periodic reports to the UN Statistical Commission on the progress made in its activities on food consumption measurement.
- Oversee the preparation of guidelines and technical reports on harmonizing the data collection on food consumption in household surveys (draft guidelines due December 2016).
- Organize a side-event and consultations on the draft guidelines at the 48th Session of the UNSC (February-March 2017).
- Oversee the preparation and review of the final version of the guidelines (due October 2017), and submission for endorsement at the 49th Session of the UNSC (February-March 2018).

In addition to the above core tasks, the task force may undertake to:

- Facilitate the implementation of methodological work aimed at advancing knowledge on methods for the collection of data on food consumption in household surveys.
- Promote activities to disseminate the food consumption guidelines and to develop the capacity of national statistical offices to implement the guidelines.

Composition

The current composition of the IAEG-AG is reproduced in the table below. When performing its role as the ISWGHS taskforce on food consumption measurement, the group will be complemented with selected technical experts on food consumption measurement from academia, International Organizations, or National Statistical Offices. The possibility for the IAEG-AG to call upon subject matter experts for specific tasks is already foreseen in the IAEG-AG terms of reference.

Experts who have been associated in the past with the work of the IAEG-AG which could be called upon for this task are:

- John Gibson, University of Waikato, New Zealand
- Jennifer Coates, Tufts University, USA
- Jack Fiedler, IFPRI

[Their availability needs to be confirmed.]

Membership of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Food Security, Agricultural and Rural Statistics (IAEG-AG)		
Institution	Title	Name
African Development Bank	Mr	Charles Lufumpa
Asian Development Bank	Mr	Rana Hasan
Eurostat	Mr	Pieter Everaers
FAO	Mr	P. Gennari
Global Strategy for the Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics	Mr	C. Duhamel
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Mr	R. Benfica
Secretariat of the Pacific Community		
UN-ESCAP	Ms	M. Guerrero
Unicef	Mr	A. Hancioglu
The World Bank	Ms	Haishan Fu
World Food Programme (WFP)	Mr	Arif Husain
World Health Organization (WHO)	Mr	Ties Boerma
Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) - Brazil	Ms	Wasmalia Bivar
Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC) - Ecuador	Mr	José Rosero
Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) - Indonesia	Mr	Suryamin
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries - Morocco	Mr	R. Arrach
Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática (INEI) - Peru	Mr	H.A. Vilchez De Los Roos
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-ERS)	Ms	M. Bohman
Swedish Board of Agriculture	Mr	U. Svensson
Ghana Statistical Service	Ms	P. Nyarko
Central Statistical Agency - Ethiopia	Mr	B. Yigezu