Demand for Data is Increasing

- Evidence-based policy making
  - Is the public sector delivering good services? Are they properly targeted?
  - Are country policies, donors' development strategies reducing poverty?
  - Is aid supporting poverty reduction?

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Measuring more than 200 indicators
  - Need for understanding (lack of) progress in indicators

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The SDGs provide a unique opportunity, but ...

… need to go beyond indicators!

- Household surveys, particularly integrated surveys, provide a unique source of data to achieve that!

- Integration at different levels
  - Within same instrument
  - Across surveys and censuses (e.g. small area estimation)
  - Across other data sources (e.g. geo-spatial, administrative)

Collecting Household-level Data

- Variety of instruments about and from households/individuals:
    - Administrative data
    - Case studies
    - Qualitative/participatory assessments
    - Censuses
    - Household Surveys

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Household Surveys

- Surveys provide a large number of variables on a probability sample of the population

- But …
  - Can be infrequent, expensive, and inconsistent over time
  - Limitations on disaggregation
    - Spatially
    - Rare events/populations
    - "Leave no one behind"
  - Also, with raising living standards and urbanization, increasing non-response rates
  - In developing countries, (over?) reliance on just a few internationally-sponsored household surveys

Heterogeneity in Household Surveys

- Initial purpose of the survey drives the way survey is designed and implemented
  - Different agenda/question → different instrument

- An increasingly crowded field in a world of increasingly scarcer resources!

- Scope for better coordination and value addition.

INSTRUMENT	SPONSOR
Censuses	UNFPA
Income Expenditure /Budget Surveys (IES/HBS)	Central Banks, IMF, NSOs
Labor Force Surveys (LFS)	ILO
Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)	USAID
Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)	UNICEF
Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaires (CWIQ)	UNDP, DfID WB Africa Region
Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS)	Stat Norway
Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)	Eurostat
Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA)	WFP

Integrated, Multi-Topic Surveys:
   • Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS)
   • Integrated Surveys (IS),
   • Family Life Surveys (FLS)
	World Bank
	RAND
	NSOs

Heterogeneity in Surveys

- Dimensions of a possible typology …

  1. "Representativeness"
  2. "Directness" of measurement

Dimensions: "Representativeness"

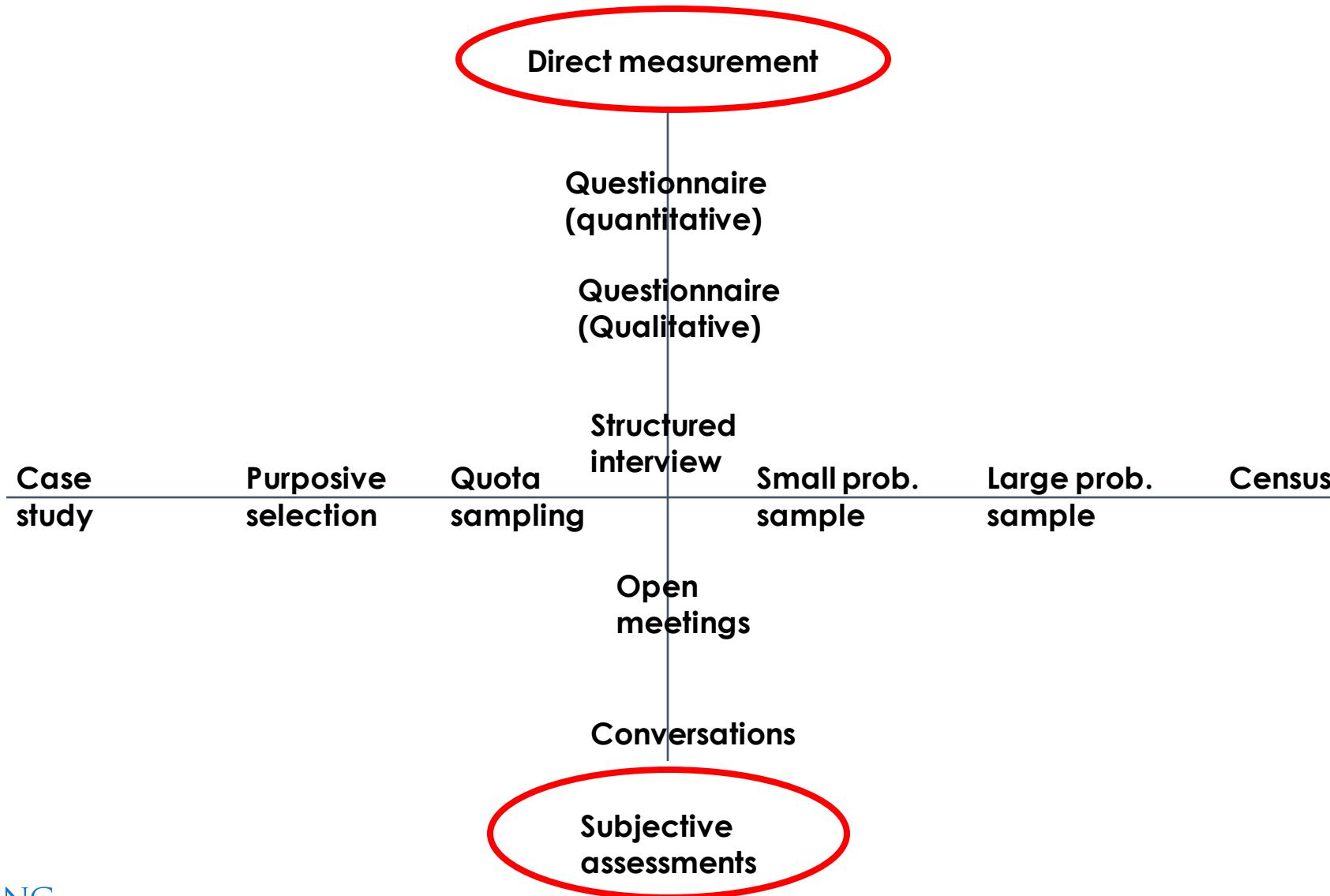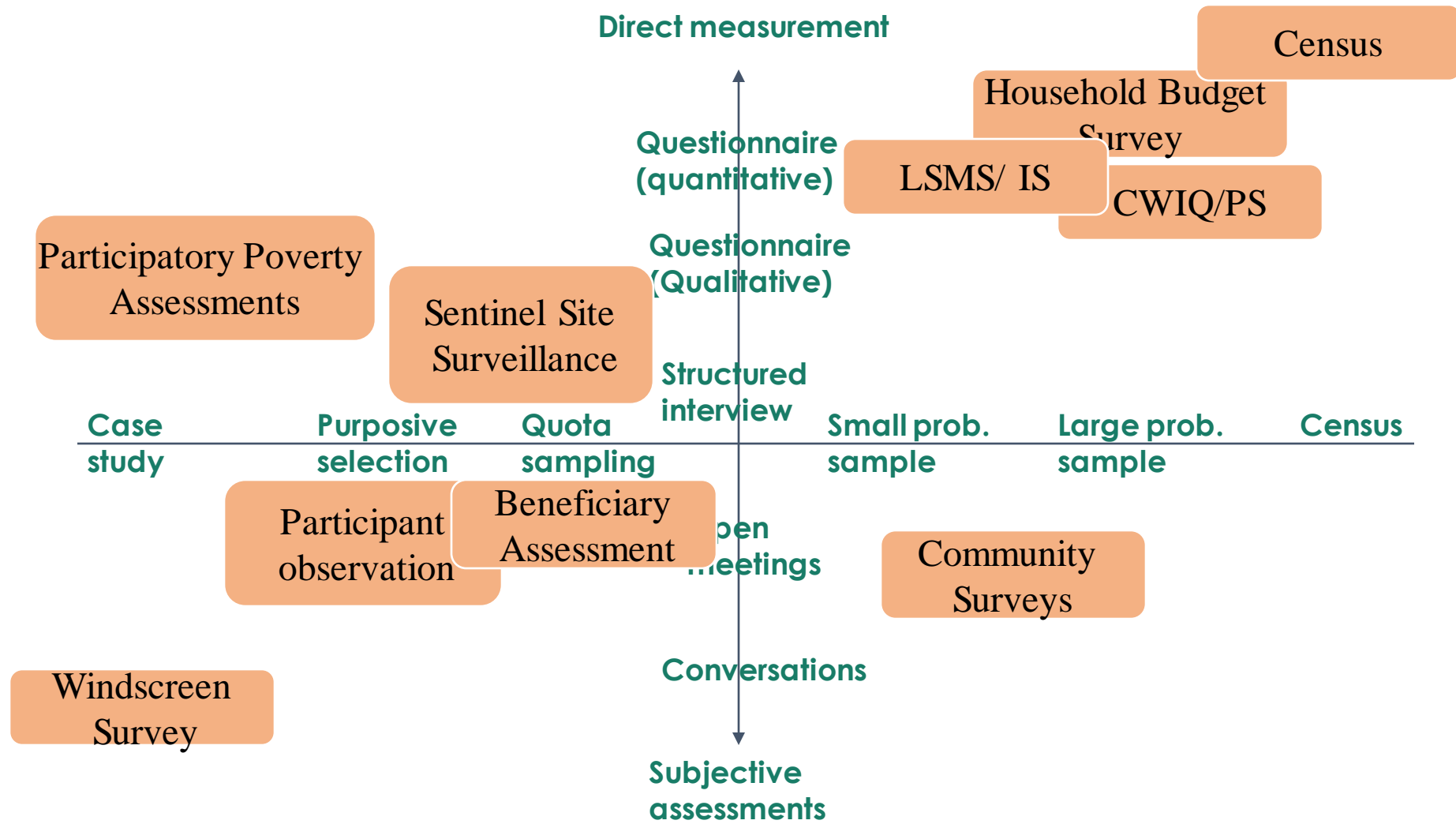**Case study** — **Purposive selection** — **Quota sampling** — **Small prob. sample** — **Large prob. sample** — **Census**
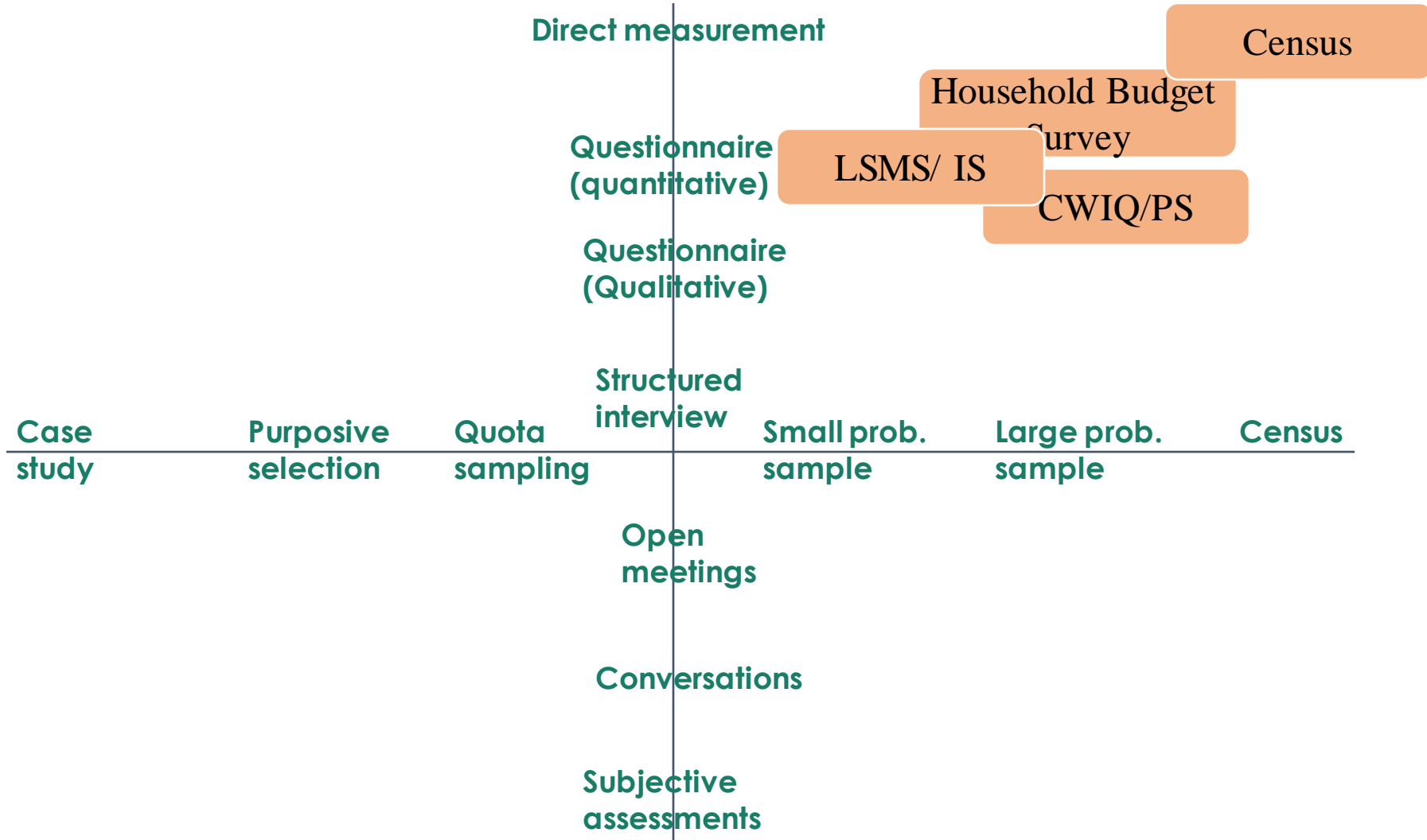
Dimensions: Subjective/Objective

Household Budget Surveys (HBS)

- **Purpose:** collect information on household expenditures to produce or update the weights for consumer price indices as well as to provide inputs for national accounts

- Countries often add modules on income to their HBS in order to facilitate the measurement of national income as well (Income Expenditure Survey or IES)

- Besides expenditures, topics can include:
  - basic demographic information
  - education levels
  - employment/labor
  - In some countries, several additional modules added

- Supported by Central Bank, IMF, NSOs

Labor Force Survey (LFS)

- **Purpose:** measure and monitor indicators of a country's labor market and economic situation; often used for planning and evaluating many government programs

- Done monthly in many developed countries; quarterly or annually or less frequently (if at all) in most developing countries

- In some countries, used to measure poverty (income-based monetary measure)

- Topics include those related to labor:
  - employment,
  - unemployment
  - earnings
  - hours of work
  - occupation, industry, and class of worker
  - supplemental questions: income, previous work experience, health, employee benefits, and work schedules
  - other sources of income/poverty measurement

- Supported by ILO, Ministry of Labor

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Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

- **Purpose:** collect data on demography and health (primarily maternal & infant health)
- Started in 1984 (continuation of the World Fertility Survey and the Contraceptive Prevalence Surveys that had been done previously)
- More than 300 DHS surveys have been done in 90+ countries
- Topics usually covered by the surveys include:
  - basic characteristics of the household and the respondents,
  - child health, education
  - family planning, fertility and fertility preferences
  - HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes and behavior
  - infant and child mortality
  - maternal health
  - nutrition
  - welfare measure based on asset ownership
- Supported by USAID, now through ICF International

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Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)

- **Purpose:** monitor progress on the 1990 World Summit for Children Goals
- Assessing the situation of children and women around the world
- Six waves so far, MICS VI started in 2016, also to collect info for SDGs
- In some countries, merged with DHS
- Main topics covered
  - child-related MDGs, now SDGs   - nutrition
  - child health and mortality   - water and sanitation
  - reproductive health and contraceptive use   - housing
  - literacy, child protection   - labor
  - domestic violence
- Supported by UNICEF

Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)

- **Purpose:** measure and monitor a limited range of human development indicators, including access, utilization and satisfaction with social services. Also, poverty proxies.

- Mainly done in Africa in the 1990s and 2000s

- Conceived to be conducted in conjunction with IHS-type baseline

- Topics/indicators:
  - Roster
  - Education use
  - Health access
  - Sanitation
  - Correlates of poverty

- Supported by World Bank Africa region

Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS)

- Started in 1980s
- Purpose: measure poverty plus study household behavior, determinants of outcomes, and linkages among assets/household characteristics/livelihood sources/government interventions/welfare
- Unit of analysis is the household, as both a consuming and producing unit
- One survey collecting data on a range of topics is a more powerful tool for policy formulation than a series of single purpose surveys: the sum is greater than its parts!
  - Farmers are diversified
  - Poverty is multidimensional and impacted by many factors
- Supported by World Bank, IADB, some UN and bilateral agencies, NSOs

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Living Standards Measurement Study (cont'd)

- Demand-driven: priority given to meeting the policy needs of individual countries, but with an eye to cross-country comparability based on int'l standards

- Implications
  - No standard set of LSMS questionnaires: content, length and complexity varies by country and, at times, over time within a given country
  - Questionnaire development: lengthy process linking data users, stakeholders and data producers
  - Capacity building, sustainability within national statistical offices

- SDGs providing push towards greater harmonization

- Working on development of standards as the basis for harmonization!

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Living Standards Measurement Study (cont'd)

- **Welfare**: monetary and non-monetary measurement
  - Consumption expenditures (multiple purposes) but also income (determinant)
- **Multi-purpose** (beyond measurement/indicators)
  - Analytical tool to study behavior, understand phenomena, and analyze linkages
- **Multi-level**: community, household, individual, plot data
  - Gender-disaggregation
- **Geo-referenced**
  - Create publicly available "Geo-variables" as a solution to disseminate confidential data
- **Computer-assisted; strict quality-control protocols**
  - Using newly developed *Survey Solutions* CAPI platform
- **Public access**

Survey	Sample - # of households	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of data collection	Period of data collection	Number of visits	Interview duration
Censuses	All households in country	Any level	10 years	1 day to 1 month	1	½ hour
Income / Expenditure Surveys (IES)	2,000-20,000	3-10 regions Urban/rura[1]	1-5-10 years	12 months	5-10	1-2 hours per visit
Labor Force Surveys (LFS)	5,000-50,000	5-20 regions Urban/rural	Month --5 yrs	3 months	1	30 minutes per active hh member
Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)	5,000-20,000	5-20 regions Urban/rural	5-10 years	3-4 months	1	2-4 hours
Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)	2,000-15,000	<5 regions Urban/rural	3-5 years	3 months or less	1	2-3 hour
Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaires (CWIQ)	5,000-15,000	5-20 regions Urban/rural	Once or twice	1 month	1	< 1 hour
Integrated, Multi-Topic Surveys (LSMS/IS/FLS)	3,000-7,000	3-8 regions Urban/rural	3-5years	2-12 months	1 or more	2-4 hours per visit

Lessons Learned

- Multitude of reasons to collect household data, multitude of different survey instruments
- Data needs and context must drive the design and implementation of the survey
- An increasingly crowded field in a resource- and capacity-constrained environment, yet …
  - Often don't have data we need (quantity and quality)
  - Inadequate coordination, overlapping
  - Poor integration, link to other data sources
- There are some promising new opportunities and developments
- Importance of thinking systemically, across surveys and, more broadly, across data sources
- Value addition of integration, both technical and institutional!

Further Information on Household Surveys

- LSMS & LSMS-ISA: http://surveys.worldbank.org/lsms
- DHS: https://dhsprogram.com/
- MICS: http://mics.unicef.org/
- LFS: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/lfsurvey/lfsurvey.list?p_lang=en

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