



Distr.  
LIMITED  
LC/L.3501(CE.11/14)  
26 June 2012  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

---

Eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the  
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Quito, 2-4 July 2012

## **REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS**



## A. MEMBERS

In most countries in the region, the national statistical institutes or offices are responsible for compiling and disseminating household statistics and other indicators or accounts. The correct and complete production of this type of information depends on the structure of the household survey system which has been established to record the various living conditions and perceptions of people in society today.

As a result, it is recommended that the Working Group on Household Surveys consist of national teams comprising:

- the directors responsible for household statistics in the member countries (or their representatives), who are currently working in national statistical institutes; and
- a representative from the Statistical Division of ECLAC to act as technical secretariat.

The persons appointed by the directors of each statistical institute were confirmed by e-mail.

### 1. Coordinating country

Country	Name	Position	Institute	E-mail address
Ecuador	David Vera Erika Machasilla	Directors of Methodology and Rules of the National Statistics System	National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC)	david_vera@inec.gob.ec erika_machasilla@inec.gob.ec

### 2. Member countries

Country	Name	Position	Institute	E-mail address
Argentina	Claudio Comari	Permanent Household Survey Director	National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC)	ccoma@indec.mecon.gov.ar
Chile	Andrés Bustamante Araneda	Coordinator for the Social Studies Department	National Institute of Statistics (INE)	andres.bustamante@ine.cl
Costa Rica	Giselle Argüello Venegas	Sample Design Coordinator	National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC)	giselle.arguello@inec.go.cr
Dominican Republic	Pablo Tactuk	National Director	National Statistics Office (ONE)	Pablo.Tactuk@one.gob.do
Paraguay	Norma Medina	Director of Household Surveys	Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC)	nme@dgeec.gov.py
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Rafael López	General Manager of Social and Environmental Statistics	National Institute of Statistics (INE)	lopez.garnier@gmail.com sociales@ine.gov.ve

### 3. Technical secretariat

Organization	Name	Division	E-mail address
ECLAC	Juan Carlos Feres Xavier Mancero	Statistical Division	juancarlos.feres@cepal.org xavier.mancero@cepal.org

## B. PROGRAMME FOR 2012-2013

### 1. General goal

Support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in improving household surveys as a basic source of information for the analysis of well-being and the establishment and implementation of policies designed to improve living standards.

### 2. Specific goals

- Support the formation of integrated household survey systems as a framework for the implementation of household surveys and standardize their structure.
- Document and exchange experiences and good practices in the statistical design of household surveys.
- Strengthen the use of methodologies for generating transverse and longitudinal estimators based on continuous surveys.
- Identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen the capacities of member countries to implement good-quality household surveys.

### 3. Main activities proposed for the period 2012-2013

#### GENERAL ACTIVITIES

**Goal 1:** *Support the formation of integrated household survey systems as a framework for the implementation of household surveys and standardize their structure*

#### Activities:

- Create a virtual library of methodologies and other knowledge about integrated household survey systems.
- Carry out an initial assessment of the degree of integration between the household surveys produced by countries and the criteria for constructing and using master sampling frames.
- Prepare a compendium of standards and best practices developed in connection with the integrated household survey system.
- Devise a regional strategy for the development of an integrated household survey system.

---

**Goal 2:** *Document and exchange experiences and good practices in the statistical design of household surveys*

---

**Activities:**

- Establish, with the support of ECLAC, an online forum to facilitate communication between national focal points and exchange experiences, successful or otherwise, in the statistical design of household surveys, as well as manuals on best practices, methodologies and similar activities.
- Carry out introductory training on the use of the website and promote its use.
- Organize a regional workshop to exchange experiences relating to the construction of master sampling frames.
- Hold seminars to tackle the main problems and devise practical solutions that can be implemented to improve the quality of statistics produced within the framework of the integrated household survey system.
- Hold face-to-face meetings to evaluate the Group's work (frequently asked questions, common problems, questions about the website or forum, evaluation of the documents made available as a tool for the sharing of experiences, research carried out).
- Propose subjects for research to be carried out for the purpose of disseminating methodologies and results.
- Report on the harmonization of the structure of integrated household survey systems.
- Report on face-to-face or virtual meetings held for dissemination among members by means of the online forum.
- Prepare an annual report on the Working Group's activities and agreements for submission to the Executive Committee of the Conference.

---

**Goal 3:** *Strengthen the use of methodologies for generating transverse and longitudinal estimators based on continuous surveys*

---

**Activities:**

- Prepare a report on the current situation with regard to the methodologies used to estimate indicators based on continuous surveys.
- Draft a document examining the relevance of census sector segments with the size required by surveys to form primary sampling units.
- Prepare a document on the procedures for socioeconomic stratification of the sampling frame, which improve the accuracy of the estimators.
- Carry out an analysis of the way in which indicator series are temporarily linked with a view to facilitating comparability, interpretation and use.

---

**Goal 4:** *Identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen the capacities of member countries to implement good-quality household surveys*

---

**Activities:**

- Gather information on existing initiatives and create mechanisms for coordination and cooperation.
  - Implement the mechanisms for cooperation on capacity-building for the creation of integrated household survey systems, giving priority to countries requiring support.
  - Work with the World Bank to implement initiatives such as the Accelerated Data Programme and the Data Documentation Initiative.)
-

#### **4. Outcomes expected for the seventh Statistical Conference to be held in November 2013**

- Assessment of the degree of integration between the household surveys produced by member countries and the criteria for constructing the framework for the integrated household survey system and using master sampling frames.
- Technical report on the current situation with regard to methodologies for estimating indicators based on continuous surveys.
- Update on the regional situation concerning practices and challenges related to the statistical design of surveys.
- Generate methodological and empirical inputs to make better use of continuous and longitudinal surveys.
- Establishment of a regional strategy for the implementation of an integrated household survey system in the countries of the region.

#### **C. PROGRESS TO DATE**

Taking into account the goal of the Working Group to “support the formation of integrated household survey systems as a framework for the implementation of household surveys” and its task to “create a virtual library of methodologies and other knowledge about integrated household survey systems”, a regional workshop will be held to consolidate contributions and experiences which will facilitate the evaluation and development of new alternatives for the design and structure of integrated household survey systems.

With a view to adding to the bibliographic resources available, both the methodological documents and the presentations made at the regional workshops will be accompanied by written documents, especially in the case of official statistical bodies, international agencies and the academic community.

The following activities are being carried out:

##### **(a) Statistical reconciliation based on the online forum created by ECLAC**

Documentation is being compiled concerning the methodology applied in member countries in their integrated household survey systems. This activity is designed to identify:

- the international standards on which the methodology in each member country is based;
- master samples and frames used in the integrated household survey system;
- structural characteristics of the system;
- current strengths and weaknesses of the system;
- short- and long-term activities for strengthening and improving the system.

In this area, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is among the countries that have started to share guides on the work carried out. In Ecuador, an assessment is being made based on the analysis of the documentation produced by the various surveys conducted in the country. This activity is being carried out as a priority in order to consolidate the integrated household survey system and design a master sample from the 2010 population and housing census.

**(b) Organization of a regional workshop**

A regional workshop is being organized on the structure of the integrated household survey system and sample design, which will tentatively be held in Buenos Aires on 14-15 August 2012 for the purpose of assessing the current situation and drawing up proposals to improve certain aspects of the system. The overall aim of the workshop is to consolidate the methodology applied by member countries.

The following themes have been proposed by the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) of Argentina:

- A. Construction of master samples and frames
- B. Strategies for reducing the number of non-responses
- C. Resource optimization planning: modules and two-stage design
- D. Integration of other sources of data

The table below gives a brief outline of the four themes.

A.	CONSTRUCTION OF MASTER SAMPLES AND FRAMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of standard master samples for integrated household survey systems</li> <li>• Imperfect frames</li> <li>• Updating and maintenance of the master sample: adjustment, effects on estimates, frequency of adjustments</li> </ul>
B.	STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING THE NUMBER OF NON-RESPONSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal of strategies for reducing the number of non-responses: sample design, awareness-raising campaigns, incentives for respondents, reducing the burden on respondents, profile and conditions of field staff</li> <li>• Interview alternatives for high-strata households</li> <li>• Analysis of non-responses</li> <li>• Strategies for implementing continuous surveys</li> </ul>
C.	RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION PLANNING: MODULES AND TWO-STAGE DESIGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ways of administering specific thematic modules in each survey</li> </ul>
D.	INTEGRATION OF OTHER SOURCES OF DATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods of integrating different statistical operations</li> <li>• Interaction between different household surveys to ensure complementary results</li> </ul>

Both the content and the numbering of the themes are currently under review by the members of the team given that Ecuador and several other members are in the process of constructing the master sample and therefore creating their integrated household survey system. This process will be completed once all countries have provided their input and confirmed their attendance.

Annex 1  
**TIMETABLE OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT**

Activity	Start date	End date
<b>Initial activities</b>		
Approval of the establishment of the Working Group on Household Surveys		Concluded
Requests sent for the inclusion of countries in the Working Group		Concluded
Approval of the participant countries		Concluded
<b>Goal 1: Support the formation of integrated household survey systems as a framework for the implementation of household surveys and standardize their structure</b>		
Creation of a virtual library of methodologies and other knowledge on integrated household survey systems	05-03-2012	30-03-2012
Incorporation of the member countries of the integrated household survey system in the virtual library	26-03-2012	30-03-2012
Promoting the inclusion of information in the virtual library	02-04-2012	20-04-2012
Coordination of the parameters and focal points for the first meeting on the integrated household survey system	16-04-2012	08-06-2012
Review and distribution of the agenda to the members of the Group	11-06-2012	22-06-2012
Final review of the agenda by the members of the Group	25-06-2012	29-06-2012
Approval of the members of the Working Group and notice of the first meeting on the integrated household survey system	To be decided	To be decided
<i>First meeting of the Working Group – Workshop on Household Surveys in Buenos Aires<sup>a</sup></i>	To be decided	To be decided
<i>Themes: Reducing and correcting non-responses in household surveys; Imperfect frames; Questionnaire design</i>	To be decided	To be decided
Initial assessment of the degree of integration between the household surveys produced by countries and the criteria for constructing and using master sample frames (internal activity within the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Ecuador)	01-05-2012	04-05-2012
Compendium of standards and best practices relating to integrated household survey systems, which will be updated according to the information generated by member countries during the Group's work	14-05-2012	16-12-2013
Devising a strategy for the development of the integrated household survey system	04-06-2012	29-11-2012
<b>Goal 2: Document and exchange experiences and good practices in the statistical design of household surveys</b>		
Establish, with the support of ECLAC, an online forum to facilitate communication between national focal points and exchange experiences, successful or otherwise, in the statistical design of household surveys, as well as manuals on best practices, methodologies and similar activities.		In progress
Carry out introductory training on the use of the website and promote its use	27-03-2012	31/03/2012
Promote the participation of the working group members in the online forum	26-03-2012	16/12/2013
Organize a regional workshop to exchange experiences relating to the construction of master sampling frames		
<i>First face-to-face meeting<sup>a</sup></i>	01-10-2012	10-10-2012
<i>Second face-to-face meeting<sup>a</sup></i>	10-06-2013	14-06-2013



Activity	Start date	End date
Propose subjects for research to be carried out for the purpose of disseminating methodologies and results	03-09-2012	25-01-2013
Hold face-to-face meetings to evaluate the Group's work (frequently asked questions, common problems, questions about the website or forum, evaluation of the documents made available as a tool for the sharing of experiences, research carried out)		
<i>First face-to-face meeting<sup>a</sup></i>	01-10-2012	10-10-2012
<i>Second face-to-face meeting<sup>a</sup></i>	10-06-2012	14-06-2012
<i>Third face-to-face meeting<sup>a</sup></i>	07-10-2013	11-10-2013
Report on the harmonization of the structure of integrated household survey systems	28-10-2012	04-02-2013
Report on face-to-face or virtual meetings held for dissemination among members by means of the online forum		
Prepare an annual report on the Working Group's activities and agreements for submission to the Executive Committee of the Conference		
<i>First report</i>	19-10-2012	14-12-2012
<i>Second report</i>	17-10-2013	13-12-2013
<b>Goal 3: Strengthen the use of methodologies for generating transverse and longitudinal estimators based on continuous surveys</b>		
Prepare a report on the current situation with regard to the methodologies used to estimate indicators based on continuous surveys	08-05-2012	31-07-2012
Draft a document examining the relevance of census sector segments with the size required by surveys to form primary sampling units.	28-01-2013	27-09-2013
Prepare a document on the procedures for socioeconomic stratification of the sampling frame, which improve the accuracy of the estimators.	17-06-2013	11-10-2013
Carry out an analysis of the way in which indicator series are temporarily linked with a view to facilitating comparability, interpretation and use	12-08-2012	06-12-2012
<b>Goal 4: Identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen the capacities of member countries to implement good-quality household surveys</b>		
Gather information on existing initiatives and create mechanisms for coordination and cooperation	15-03-2012	27-04-2012
Implement the mechanisms for cooperation on capacity-building for the creation of integrated household survey systems, giving priority to countries requiring support.	14-10-2013	16-12-2013

<sup>a</sup> Tentative dates.