



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

Handbook on Surveys of Households and Individuals Foundations and Emerging Approaches

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Outline

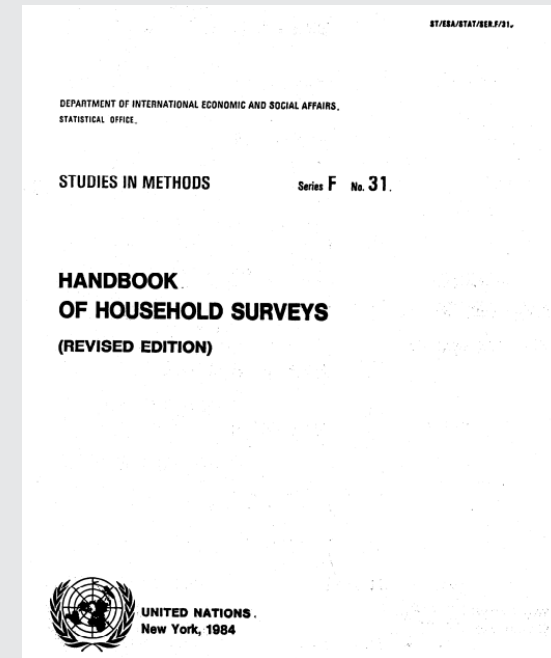
1. ISWGHS and the mandate
2. Handbook on Surveys of Households and Individuals: Foundations and Emerging Approaches
3. My reflections: measuring ICT access and use by households and individuals

The Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS)

- Established in 2015 under the aegis of the UNSC
- Objectives:
 - Improve coordination of household surveys
 - Advance cross-cutting survey methodology
 - Enhance communication and advocacy
 - Support capacity building
- Governance
 - Membership: 12 international agencies + 10 (rotating) member states
 - Secretariat: UN Statistics Division/ECLAC Statistics Division
 - Current co-chairs: World Bank and UNESCO
- Work through time-bound Task Forces, led by and with contribution from members and non-member experts.

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
- ❑ Draft handbook endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission March 2026



Purpose of the Handbook

- ❑ Compared to 1984, the national data landscape has changed:
 - Increase in data demands
 - Advances in survey methodologies
 - Availability of nontraditional data sources: HH surveys are part of the larger national data ecosystem
- ❑ A comprehensive update to the 1984 UN Handbook on Household Surveys, offers guidance on:
 - Key principles
 - Necessary steps for each phase of survey design and implementation
 - A balance between theoretical foundations and practical solutions
 - Emerging approaches
 - National practices/case studies

Consultations

- ❑ Objectives: To ensure the revised Handbook is practical and 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 (Jan 2024)
 - Regional consultations
 - Thematic areas consultations: migration, IDP-refugees, time use surveys, gender, persons with disabilities
 - Technical meetings and workshops (China, Norway, Portugal)
 - Other open consultations

Key Features of the Handbook

- ☐ Coverage of **emerging approaches**:
- ☐ **Inclusion**: to cover individuals living in and outside of households
- ☐ Surveys as an integral component of a broader national data ecosystem:
data integration and interoperability
- ☐ Keeping as a **living document**: emerging methods and case studies
- ☐ Unique value adds relative to other survey guidance
 - ☐ Focus on National Statistical Offices
 - ☐ Practical guidance
 - ☐ Comprehensive
 - ☐ Global
 - ☐ Accessible (especially frames, sampling, processing)
 - ☐ UN angle

Structure of the Handbook

PART I	
0	Introduction
1	Overview of the current survey landscape
2	Survey needs assessment and initiation
3	Survey Management
4	Questionnaire design, translation, and instrument
5	Frames and Sampling
6	Data Collection
7	Data Processing
8	Weighting
9	Analysis
10	Dissemination

PART II	
11	Measuring education
12	Measuring governance and crime victimization
13	Measuring labour
14	Measuring wealth
15	Mainstreaming the gender perspective
16	Surveys of Forcibly Displaced people
17	Surveys in Small Islands Developing States

Chapter 1 (Overview)

- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- Quality frameworks
- Probability and non-probability surveys
- Data collection modes
- Inclusivity
- Respondent burden
- Paradata and metadata
- Communication and public engagement
- Data integration and interoperability by design

Some Teasers

- ❑ **CH2, Needs Assessment/Initiation:** “should new data be collected?”
- ❑ **CH3, Project Management:** Catalog of functional roles
- ❑ **CH4, Questionnaire:** Frameworks and practical guidance
- ❑ **CH6, Data Collection:** Comprehensive of entire process - QC
- ❑ **CH7, Processing:** Documenting the process – very new!
- ❑ **CH8, Weighting:** Rigorous, comprehensive, but accessible
- ❑ **CH9, Analysis:** Worked example – great intro
- ❑ **CH10, Dissemination:** Innovative approaches
- ❑ **Part 2:** UN standards and GREAT intro to international research

Measuring ICT access and use

- ❑ Survey as an integral part of the ICT data ecosystem: assessing needs; data interoperable by design; and data integration
- ❑ Inclusion:
 - Changing dynamics of respondents and NSOs: feedback
 - Measuring ICT use/access for marginalized population groups, considering going beyond those living in the households
 - Mode of data collection: inclusion and AI-impact
- ❑ Questionnaire design: ICT concepts and terminology evolve quickly, stronger guidance is needed in testing/translation/adaptation (re. recent Gallup questions on AI)
- ❑ Quality: going beyond the TSE measurement, considering the entire UN-NQAF structure
- ❑ Guidance on how often to revisit and how to revise the concepts/questions

Thank you!

❑ Questions: iswghs.secretariat@un.org