

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CAPABILITY PROGRAMME
Report prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office

1. This report indicates the progress in the implementation of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) and its work programme for 1990-91.

2. As of March 1990, forty-one countries were formally listed as participating in NHSCP:

Africa:	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.	50%
Asia and the Pacific:	Bangladesh, Mongolia, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.	
Western Asia:	Bahrain, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.	
Europe:	Cyprus	
Latin America and the Caribbean:	Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.	

Of the above, eleven countries, viz., Algeria, Angola, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Bolivia, Cuba, Jamaica and Panama were new entrants, which joined the programme during 1989/90. Tanzania has recently been assisted in the reformulation of an integrated household survey programme to meet the data requirements of the joint UNDP, World Bank and African Development Bank project on Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) to be executed in Tanzania with the assistance of UNDP. Twelve of the older participants, viz., Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Thailand, Bahrain, Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Cyprus and Peru have been transferred to the maintenance phase, having successfully completed one or more phases of NHSCP or participated in the programme for a minimum of five years and attained reasonable capability or confidence to continue the survey programme on the basis of the country's own resources, subject to minimal external assistance without a formal

project. However, some of them e.g. Ethiopia, Malawi and Cyprus, have sought further assistance under other technical assistance programmes and are still being assisted by NHSCP in their household survey programmes.

3. In addition, there are 22 countries for which project proposals have been prepared but not yet approved for implementation. They include:

a. Government approved:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Cayman Islands, Congo, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Niger, Oman, Rwanda, Senegal and United Arab Emirates.

b. Government approval awaited:

Brunei, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Tonga and Republic of Korea.

c. Government proposal:

People's Republic of China.

Of these, Argentina, Cayman Islands, Brunei and Papua New Guinea are expected to join the programme this year; the latter two after their population censuses scheduled for 1990. Niger is being assisted as in the case of Tanzania in the formulation of a similar proposal on an integrated household survey programme to meet data requirements of its SDA Project - to be executed by UNDP. Afghanistan, which could not undertake the household survey programme formulated earlier because of the disturbed conditions, has come back with a formal request for a reformulation of the programme. Fiji, which has been implementing the survey programme largely on its own, has shown renewed interest in technical assistance from NHSCP. Thus, there are quite a few countries lined up to join the programme, sooner or later, and, hopefully, it will be possible to achieve the targeted participation of 45 countries by the end of 1991.

4. A sub-regional project for the Caribbean, prepared in 1988 at the request of the Caribbean Community Secretariat, has been endorsed by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians and efforts are being made to find the requisite external resources. The feasibility of a similar sub-regional project for the South Pacific is also under consideration in consultation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

5. NHSCP has been closely involved in the Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD) sponsored by the League of Arab States and supported by AGFUND, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO as well as the United Nations. The project which covers five Arab countries viz., Egypt, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen envisages, essentially, surveys of maternal and child health, including infant mortality. It is executed, in part, by the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development with the assistance of the UN Statistical Office (NHSCP). The survey has already started in Mauritania and project documents have been prepared for Egypt and Yemen. It is proposed to extend the project eventually to eight more countries of the Arab world.

6. NHSCP has persisted in its efforts to co-ordinate with other internationally sponsored household survey programmes such as the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) Programme sponsored by USAID, the Inter-Agency Food and Nutrition Surveillance (IFNS) Programme sponsored by UNICEF, FAO and WHO, the Living Standards Measurement Studies (LSMS) and the "permanent household surveys" sponsored by the World Bank - the latter in context of its Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Project for Sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, NHSCP has been actively co-operating with LSMS in Bolivia, Jamaica and Pakistan and with the SDA Project in Ghana and Malawi (apart from Tanzania and Niger mentioned above). NHSCP, as a constituent unit of the UN Statistical Office, continues to function as a member of the SDA Project Steering Committee, its working group and sub-committee on statistics. It also participated actively in an Inter-Agency Technical Workshop organized by the World Bank at Washington D.C. in November 1989 and in an informal discussion held earlier with the World Bank and Statistics Canada at Ottawa.

7. NHSCP continued its pursuit of inter-agency collaboration in the promotion of household survey activities and the development of household survey methodology, with the specialized agencies of the UN system, especially the ILO, FAO, WHO and UNESCO, and received in return the active co-operation of those agencies through participation in project formulation and technical review missions and collaboration in technical studies, training programmes and technical meetings at the interregional as well as regional and sub-regional levels. The ILO, in particular, continued to provide the services of its regional advisers in Africa and Asia for assistance in the promotion and implementation of NHSCP. A recent event of considerable significance was an inter-agency consultative meeting convened by FAO at Rome in January 1990 to discuss possible co-operation between FAO, the World Bank (SDA Project) and the UN Statistical Office (NHSCP) in the development of socio-economic indicators.

8. NHSCP also continued to co-operate with UNICEF and UNFPA in matters of their concern. A major development of significance arising from this co-operation is a proposal for monitoring achievement of social goals, on which a separate report is submitted. Another development of considerable interest is an agreement with UNFPA that country level household survey programmes be integrated, wherever possible, with UNFPA-funded population census projects.

9. Technical studies: The NHSCP technical studies on Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, Measuring Literacy through Household Surveys and Assessing the Nutritional Status of Young Children have been released in a preliminary form for wider circulation. A study on Measuring Health and Mortality through Household Surveys, prepared with the consultative assistance of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has been completed. This study along with the studies on Nutrition Status and Literacy were presented for discussion and review to an interregional Working Group on Household Surveys convened at London in April 1990.

10. A methodological report on Household Surveys of Agriculture in Africa, based on a series of country-level case studies conducted earlier, is under preparation and will be ready during the course of this year. A technical study on Household Surveys of Energy Consumption has been completed and is presently under revision. Another on Surveys of Household Economic Activities has been initiated in collaboration with the ILO, FAO, World Bank and the concerned divisions of the Statistical Office. Others already commissioned through consultancy services include Guidelines for the Estimation of Sampling Errors and Sampling for Rare and Elusive Populations.

11. In the context of PAPCHILD Surveys on Maternal and Child Health, a sampling manual has been prepared and circulated for comments. Other subjects under consideration for technical studies or guidelines include: (i) use of micro processors in household surveys, (ii) preparation and dissemination of survey reports, (iii) time-use surveys, (iv) housing surveys, and (v) household surveys for rural development. Subjects (iii) and (iv) are on the work programme of the Statistical Office and may call for technical inputs from NHSCP. Subject (v) has been suggested to be taken up as a joint FAO/NHSCP undertaking.

12. Translation of the technical studies already published in English into French and Spanish is also in progress. The Study on Sampling Frames and Sampling Designs for Integrated Household Survey Programmes has recently been translated and published in French and Spanish and the translation of the study on Household Income and Expenditure Surveys into French and Spanish will soon be taken up.

13. The NHSCP Reporter, which remained suspended for five years, has been revived as a bi-annual feature and two issues, dated June 1989 and December 1989, have been published. The next issue of the Reporter will include an updated list of surveys conducted under NHSCP.

14. Interregional, regional and sub-regional workshops: In order to facilitate review discussion and dissemination of the technical studies, a series of interregional workshops on household surveys was initiated in 1989 with a working group held at Geneva to discuss the NHSCP study on household income and expenditure surveys and the ILO manual on surveys of the economically active population. The second in the series was held at London in April 1990 to review and discuss the recent technical studies on household surveys of health, nutrition status and literacy. The third is planned for 1991 to review and discuss the studies on household economic activities and energy consumption.

15. Two regional Working Groups on Household Surveys have also been convened, one by ECA and held at Addis Ababa in October 1989 and the other by ESCAP and held at Beijing in May 1990. A regional workshop on household surveys, to be jointly convened by the UN Statistical Office and ESCWA for West Asia and Cyprus is to be held in October 1990. A series of sub-regional workshops on the development of sampling frames and sample designs for integrated household survey programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean has also been approved for funding by UNFPA and will be executed by ECLAC with technical support from Central Co-ordinating Unit of NHSCP.

16. NHSCP has also been participating in international and national conferences, occasionally presenting papers on matters concerning household surveys. For instance, a paper on Household Budget Surveys in Developing Countries was presented at the 47th Session of the International Statistical Institute held at Paris in August/ September 1989. A paper on the Proposed Programme to Monitor the Achievement of Social Goals was presented to the Sixth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers held at Addis Ababa in January 1990.

17. Training: The Regional Household Survey Training project financed by UNDP in support of the training facilities offered by the Government of India in pursuance of technical co-operation among developing countries, resumed in 1989 after suspension for a year, will continue through 1990 with three courses each year including one for training of trainers. The courses are now open for trainees from Africa and West Asia. The project, executed by ESCAP, is assisted by NHSCP. Unless extended further through tripartite agreement between the Government of India, ESCAP and UNDP, the project will have to terminate at the end of this year.

18. NHSCP has offered to provide the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) at Tokyo with lecturing assistance in sample surveys within the framework of its general course for statistical training. Accordingly, one of the NHSCP technical advisers gave a series of lectures at the Institute in January 1990.

19. Future of NHSCP: NHSCP, as an interregional project, has been extended to continue upto 1991, with funding support provided by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF. It is widely agreed that the need for continued assistance to interested developing countries for co-ordinated work on improving survey-based statistics and survey-taking capability will continue well beyond 1991. The United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has already taken over the financial responsibility for two of the experts and two of the secretaries in the Central Co-ordinating Unit in accordance with the arrangements stipulated for the current phase of the programme. Both UNICEF and UNFPA have also indicated continuing support after 1991. In the meantime, the process of identifying the additional ways and means of ensuring further longer-term support for this work continues.