

LIVING STANDARDS MEASUREMENT STUDY (LSMS) AND  
SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM (SDA)

Report prepared by the World Bank

Social Dimensions of Adjustment Program

The Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Program was launched jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Africa Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank in May 1988 with the objective to help participating Governments to integrate poverty reduction policies and programs at the core of their structural adjustment programs, and executed by The World Bank, now covers thirty-six countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This paper concentrates only on the SDA activities in the area of statistics, but it should be emphasized that the SDA is not involved in the area of statistical strengthening as an end in itself, but rather as a means to promote better social policy and programs design.

Methodological Development: Two types of household surveys have been developed in the framework of the Program. Adapted versions of these surveys are currently in the field in several countries. The Priority Survey (PS), characterized by a short questionnaire which can be administered and processed quickly, aims to identify target groups and monitor welfare trends<sup>1/</sup>. The Integrated Survey (IS) is designed to collect, for a relatively small national sample of households, comprehensive data on incomes and expenditures, assets, socio-economic characteristics, basic needs coverage and welfare indicators for households and their members<sup>2/</sup>. The IS is an adaptation of the World Bank's LSMS surveys. While governments may choose to carry out the PS periodically at relatively short intervals to monitor the evolution of living conditions of households, the IS should be viewed as a strategic investment to generate the data needed for longer-term policy planning and development strategy formulation to be undertaken only at 4 - 5 year intervals, since the behavioral characteristics that the richer data helps to identify are unlikely to change on a yearly basis. In addition, a prototype Community Survey (CS) is currently being developed.

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<sup>1/</sup> See C. Grootaert, T. Marchant and others: The Social Dimensions of Adjustment Priority Survey; SDA Working Paper No. 12, World Bank, Washington DC: 1991.

<sup>2/</sup> World Bank: The Social Dimensions of Adjustment Integrated Survey, Washington DC: (forthcoming).

The SDA approach to the design of Data Processing Systems is to support existing knowledge and expertise and also to encourage the development of new strategies and methods. Where a country has experience using particular software that can fulfil particular survey requirements, its continued use is encouraged. The SDA Program has also worked in close cooperation with other agencies to develop systems to process the surveys that are now going into the field. Prototype systems have been developed for the processing of the IS and PS.

Country Implementation. SDA Statisticians and Data Processing Specialists are actively engaged in providing assistance to participating countries to strengthen their national information systems and implement SDA Survey Programs. For each country with an ongoing survey, a team composed of a statistician and a data processing specialist is to implement a follow-up program based on training of nationals and providing assistance to initiate operations. This program includes regular missions in the countries to assist with: (i) the design of the questionnaire; (ii) training of field staff; (iii) carrying out of field operations, data entry and processing, (iv) publishing the first statistical abstract, and (v) ensuring that the survey results are fed into a national welfare monitoring system that will provide rapid feedback to policymakers.

So Far, eleven countries are implementing survey activities. The survey schedule for all countries is given in the attached annex.

Two countries are already delivering results: Mauritania with the second year of LSMS-type integrated survey, and Chad with the first Priority Survey in N'djamena. The experience of Chad demonstrates that the design of an SDA Survey in a country is easily adapted to national needs. Specifically, the Chadian team has decided to add a module on expenditure to the basic survey questionnaire. This module has been applied to a sub-sample of households. The results will be compared with the N'djamena Household Survey carried out in 1988. If the results are positive in terms of quality and usefulness, this approach may be extended to other countries. In Mauritania, a statistical abstract was produced with the support of the SDA Program and poverty profiles based on the survey data is now being prepared. Also, Mauritania is now preparing a PS. In addition to Mauritania and Chad, nine countries are currently implementing an SDA Survey Program. Three are starting with an Integrated Survey (Ghana, Uganda and Madagascar); and six countries are launching a Priority Survey (Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Zambia and Senegal). For most countries implementing a PS, field operations have started during the first six months of 1991 and for those implementing the IS, field activities are planned to start during the second semester of 1991 or early 1992.

As examples of cross fertilization between countries, the Mauritanian Survey Director provided technical advise to Guinea-Bissau (which is starting a PS) with the SDA statistician and data processing specialist, and the Chadian Survey Director visited Senegal to chair a workshop with the SDA Statistician for Senegalese staff who are planning a Priority Survey.

For two other countries, Malawi and Zaire, the surveys currently supported under the SDA Program do not fall strictly under the IS or PS

categories. Malawi is carrying out a Household Expenditure and Small Scale Economic Activities (HESSEA) survey, and Zaire is carrying out an Agricultural Survey Program (financed by UNDP/FAO). Both started field work in 1990, (Malawi in July and Zaire in September), and both include some indicators contained in the PS. Subsequent rounds of these surveys will be adapted to meet the additional requirements of the SDA Program.

In addition, the Division is helping the following countries to prepare programs to strengthen their national information systems and implement SDA survey programs: Cameroon, Mali, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Egypt, Tanzania, Kenya, and Zimbabwe.

Analysis of Available Data. In order to provide analysis on poverty issues, assistance is also being provided to process and analyze available data from existing household surveys. Where possible, this is to be combined with the implementation of national workshops that will focus not only on how to analyze and interpret the data but will also consider the policy implications of these results. Countries in which such analytical support is expected or is already being supplied include Mali, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Coordination. Since the launching of the SDA program, a number of steps have been taken to enhance coordination. Joint technical missions have been undertaken with the UN National Household Survey Capability Program (NHSCP) in Ghana, Malawi and Niger; and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Ghana; and with other bilateral/multilateral institutions and donor agencies. Liaison also extends to the area of technical assistance and support. In the field of data processing in particular, close links have been established with such agencies as the International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC) of the US Bureau of Census. Other national and multilateral agencies with which close contacts are maintained include Statistics Canada, INSEE, ODA, SOEC, Statistics Sweden, and Central Bureau of Statistics in Norway. Also, periodic technical meetings have been held with all the major agencies promoting statistical development programs including meetings organized by the ECA, FAO, UNESCO, EEC and UNSO. It should also be noted that African statisticians and analysts have participated in a number of meetings at which various aspects of the SDA Program have been discussed.

Overall coordination has been further enhanced by the creation of the SDA Statistics Sub-committee which includes representatives of key specialized international agencies and donors. The Sub-committee provides advice and guidance for the SDA work in the area of statistics and information systems and has met three times (New York (March 1990), Luxembourg (September 1990) and Abidjan (April 1991)). The most recent meeting of the subcommittee was noteworthy for having met for the first time in Africa and for having included the national statistical directors or their representatives from ten participating countries. One of the main recommendations to emerge from the meeting was that the statistical offices should in future be permanently represented on the subcommittee, thereby establishing a means for them to compare and exchange experiences on a regular basis. The following table gives the current membership of the subcommittee.

Table 1.

MEMBERS OF THE STATISTICS SUB-COMMITTEE

1. Co-sponsoring Agencies
  - United Nations Development Program
  - African Development Bank
  - World Bank
  
2. UN Agencies
  - ECA
  - FAO
  - IFAD
  - ILO
  - UNESCO
  - UNFPA
  - UNICEF
  - UNSO
  
3. Others
  - CESD
  - SOEC (EUROSTAT)
  - INSEE
  - ISI
  - ODA
  - Munich Center (CDG)
  - Statistics Canada
  - Statistics Sweden
  - US Bureau of Census
  
4. Representatives of Participating African Countries

### Living Standards Measurement Study

In the last 12 months LSMS surveys have been started in two new countries. The Enquete Nationale sur le Niveau de Vie des Menages began in Morocco in September, 1990, and the Pakistan Integrated Household Survey began in January, 1991. Both surveys have introduced some innovations. The Morocco survey has a component on literacy in which household members are given short tests in reading and mathematics. The Pakistan survey makes use of female interviewers to collect detailed information from female household members directly, which is often not possible using male interviewers in Pakistan. Other LSMS surveys continued in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The 1990 Survey of Living conditions in Jamaica (in the field from October to December, 1990) emphasized literacy and numeracy, giving mathematics and reading comprehension tests to all household members presently attending primary and secondary schools. The 1990 Enquesta de Niveles de Vivienda in Bolivia was extended to all urban areas, and in 1991 rural areas will be covered for the first time. Finally a second LSMS survey was done in Lima, Peru, to follow up on those households that participated in the 1985-86 Peru LSMS survey.

Cooperation with other international agencies, and with various other agencies in the countries in which surveys are being undertaken, is increasing. UNDP funding was obtained for the Moroccan and Pakistan surveys, and has also been received to undertake a survey in Laos beginning late 1991. Additional UNDP funding is expected to finance a survey in Viet Nam. The plans for the Laos survey were made in close collaboration with ESCAP in Bangkok. The planning for the Bolivian surveys included joint World Bank - United Nations Household Survey Capability Program (UNHSCP) missions. Within the various countries more efforts are being made to involve local institutions and individual researchers. Several Peruvian graduate students are using the Peru data to write their Ph.D. thesis, and Cuanto S.A., a Peruvian consulting firm, carried out the 1990 survey in Lima and is undertaking research in close collaboration with the World Bank on the changes in inequality and poverty in Peru from 1985-86 to 1990. Joint research on education using the Jamaican data by World Bank researchers and Jamaican officials and academics will begin in the second half of 1991.