

Revising the UN Handbook on Household Surveys: Innovations and Perspectives

Date and Time: 5 March 2025, 6:15-8:00pm

Location: UNICEF House

Organized by: UNICEF and UNSD

The series of United Nations Handbook on Household Surveys has been a cornerstone reference for statisticians and policymakers since the 1950s. The handbooks have guided National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in designing, conducting, and utilizing household surveys, which are critical for understanding population characteristics, socio-economic conditions, and progress toward global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the evolving data landscape, emerging methodologies, and the increasing demand for timely and inclusive data necessitate a comprehensive revision of this foundational document.

The side event, organized by UNICEF and UNSD, in collaboration with the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (ISWGHS) will present the revised handbook, including a special focus on child-centric dimensions in household surveys. UNICEF's collaboration underscores the importance of capturing data on children's lives to support evidence-based policies for their well-being and development.

This side event aims to:

1. Introduce the revised edition of the *UN Handbook on Surveys of Individuals and Households: Foundations and Emerging Approaches* and highlight the key updates and innovations incorporated into the handbook, including:
 - Advances in survey methodologies.
 - Strategies for improving inclusivity in survey data.
 - Design of interoperable surveys for their integration with other data sources, such as administrative, geospatial, and citizen-generated data.
2. Explore how household surveys can better capture data on children's health, education, protection, and well-being as part of broader survey innovations.
3. Discuss strategies to support countries on household surveys in the modern era.

Agenda

Moderator: Gero Carletto, Senior Manager, World Bank

Opening (15m)

- Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UN Statistics Division
- Liu, Nan, Director, National Bureau of Statistics, China
- Joao Pedro Azevedo, Chief Statistician, UNICEF

Presentation (15m)

- Handbook: key features/plans, incl. child centric survey (15m)
 - o Haoyi Chen, UN Statistics Division
 - o UNICEF

Panel discussion (40m)

Questions for the panelists:

- *Describing the role of your office in the revision of the household surveys handbook*
- *Challenges you see in implementing/carrying out surveys in your country/region, how would the Handbook support you?*
- *Suggestions to the implementation and uptake of the handbook, how can we be creative under current landscape of development data support?*

Panelists:

- Leesha Delatie-Budair, Director General (OIC), STATIN Jamaica
- Malaysia DOSM (TBC)
- Ghana Statistical Service/Statistics South Africa (TBC)
- Xavier Mancero, ECLAC Statistics Division
- Silvia Montoya, Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics

Closing (10m)

- Papa Seck, UN Women