

UN Guidelines on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective



United Nations Statistics Division

UN Women

Regional Workshop on the UN Methodological Guidelines on the
Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective
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Part II:

The role of household surveys and other sources of data in collecting individual-level data on asset ownership and control

1. Considerations when deciding on data sources to collect individual-level data on asset ownership and control
2. The role of household surveys
3. Other data sources:
 - Population and housing censuses
 - Administrative data
 - Agricultural censuses and surveys

1. Considerations

*“National statistical offices should consider **all relevant sources** in a **complementary manner**, and decide, within the context of the overall statistical plan, each source’s role in collecting **individual-level data** on asset ownership and generating statistics relevant from a gender perspective.”*

Scope

Conceptual framework

*Units of observation and
measures of ownership*

Limitations

“Compared to other sources of data on asset ownership, household surveys are advantageous because they can cover a wide-scope of topics and conceptual frameworks and generate a complete set of measures of asset ownership from a gender perspective.”

Scope

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitations

Household surveys are often the only source of data that can explore the full range of physical and financial assets, including:

- *dwellings*
- *agricultural land*
- *other real estate*
- *livestock*
- *agricultural equipment*
- *bank accounts or other financial assets*
- *valuables and consumer durables*

Scope

Conceptual framework

*Units of observation and
measures of ownership*

Limitations

- *household surveys can accommodate the set of questions for measuring the bundle of ownership rights*
- *household surveys can implement the respondent selection protocols*

Scope

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitations

- *Households or Individuals are the basic unit of enumeration, observation and analysis.*
- *Prevalence indicators can be produced*
- *Gender differences in the prevalence of ownership by type of asset, for the entire population of a country and/or disaggregated by multiple relevant population groups can be assessed, in most countries, based on household surveys only.*

Household Surveys

Scope

Conceptual framework

*Units of observation and
measures of ownership*

Limitations

Data collection through household surveys has implications in terms of cost, data quality, sampling errors, and the ability to provide data for small areas or population groups. These challenges and limitations are typical of all household surveys.

Population and housing censuses

Population censuses and household surveys cover, in principle, the same population and employ the same units of enumeration, households and individuals. However, censuses are less equipped to collect complex or detailed information on specific topics that would require intensive training, more specialized interviewers and a higher burden for the field staff.

Possibility of using long-form and short-form questionnaires

Scope

Conceptual framework

*Units of observation and
measures of ownership*

Limitations

“Statistical information on asset ownership may be derived from some administrative sources such as land registration and cadastre systems

Scope

Conceptual framework

*Units of observation and
measures of ownership*

Limitations

Can include:

- *dwelling property records*
- *property taxation records*
- *vehicle registrations*

Mainly covers documented ownership

Scope

Administrative data is not primarily collected for statistical purposes.

Conceptual framework

However, property and taxation records typically cover assets that are registered or documented.

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitations

Scope

Typically the unit of measurement is the asset.

Conceptual framework

Theoretically, asset level data allows both population-based and asset-based indicators of gender differences in documented asset ownership

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitations

Often data quality issues/recording issues can be a problem

Scope

Production of statistics is a secondary purpose

Conceptual framework

Only useful if kept current and is sex is recorded

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Coverage of assets maybe incomplete

Limitations

Unit of analysis of Agricultural Surveys (AgS) and Censuses (ACs) is the **holding** – ie., economic unit of production under single management, comprising all livestock kept and all land used for agricultural production purposes

Ag Holdings in
Household (HH) Sector

In most cases 1-to-1
relationship between an
HH sector Ag Holding
and an Ag Household

Ag Holdings in
Non Household Sector

Corporations
Governmental
Institutions, etc.

~~Households non
engaged in
agriculture~~

Scope

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitation

Advantage

Summary

- *Agricultural surveys are an appropriate vehicle for collecting sex-disaggregated data on **land** and **livestock** ownership because information on tenure of land and ownership / management of livestock falls within the scope of these surveys.*
- *They are generally **not suitable to** investigate **other assets***

Scope

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitation

Advantage

Summary

- *Agricultural surveys can accommodate the set of **questions for measuring the bundle of ownership rights***
- *Agricultural surveys **can implement the respondent selection protocols**, although they are **traditionally more rigid than** household surveys in terms of data collection approaches*

Scope

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitation

Advantage

Summary

- *Holdings, Individuals or Parcels* of land are the basic units of enumeration, observation and analysis.
- *Incidence indicators* can be produced if data are collected at the individual or parcel level
- *Gender differences* in the incidence of ownership of land and livestock *in the population of holdings* (mainly in the household sector)

Agricultural Surveys

Scope

- *Ag Surveys cannot produce estimates for all the households, but only for a sub-set – ie., households engaged agriculture*

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitation

Advantage

Summary



Scope

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and
measures of ownership

Limitation

Advantage

Summary

- Ag Surveys are a *very appropriate source (the best one?) to monitor the SDG indicator 5.a.1 as it focuses on ownership/tenure rights over ag land in the agricultural population.*
- In the context of SDG 5a1, *ag population* has been defined as the population of agricultural households – ie., households that operated land or raised livestock in the past 12 months, regardless of the final purpose (own consumption / trade)

Ag Holdings in
the Household
Sector (ag
households)

Scope

Conceptual framework

*Units of observation and
measures of ownership*

Limitation

Advantage

Summary

- *If a country decides to monitor SDG 5a1 through Ag Surveys, no screening of households is needed to identify ag. households, as all households in the sample are ag households and therefore, by definition, part of the reference population.*
- *For the same reasons, no oversampling is needed.*

Scope

Conceptual framework

Units of observation and measures of ownership

Limitation

Advantage

Summary

- *If a country wants to extrapolate to the entire population* → ag surveys are not the most appropriate source, as they do not cover HHs not engaged in agriculture.
- *For SDG 5a1 monitoring purposes* → ag surveys are one of the best vehicle, as the indicator looks at gender disparities in land ownership/tenure rights within agricultural households (proxy for ag pop.)
- *National Households Surveys can be still used for SDG 5a1 monitoring, though they require HH screening is necessary.*

Agricultural Censuses

Agricultural Censuses and agricultural surveys cover the same population and employ the same units of enumeration – ie., holdings, individuals and parcels of land.

However, like the population and housing censuses, agricultural censuses are big operations, which are less equipped to collect complex or detailed information on specific topics that would require intensive training, more specialized interviewers and a higher burden for the field staff.

*“National statistical offices should consider **all relevant sources** in a **complementary manner**, and decide, within the context of the overall statistical plan, each source’s role in collecting **individual-level data** on asset ownership and generating statistics relevant from a gender perspective.”*

Questions for discussion and consideration

- What administrative sources of data on asset ownership are available in your country?
 - What are they?
 - Do these sources allow measurement at the individual level?
 - How well do various sources fit with the concept of a bundle of ownership rights?
- Can administrative data be used to validate survey data on asset ownership?
- Does your country have any experience with collecting asset data through the census or agriculture surveys?