

Concept Note

Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) Follow-up Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective

New York, 21 November 2013

Background: The overall objective of the UN EDGE Follow-up Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective is to reach a tentative agreement on the broad recommendations on the design of the methodological survey experiments on measuring individual-level asset ownership from multi-purpose household surveys, including the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), with financial and technical contributions from the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project.¹ **The goal will be to develop by the end of the day a clear agenda for this work program and next steps.**

One experiment will be implemented in two different sub-Saharan African settings by the LSMS team, potentially linked with the on-going LSMS-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) project activities. Prior to the implementation of the experiment in each setting, the proposed design will be validated by a qualitative research study. The proposed experiment design will serve as a starting point for discussions with EDGE pilot countries, which are on board to implement/support similar survey experiments.

The data from the experiments will feed into three outputs. First, the UN Guidelines to Measure Asset Ownership and Control from a Gender Perspective, to be developed under the EDGE project and reviewed by the UN Statistical Commission. Second, a sourcebook produced by the LSMS team that will provide methodological guidance on the design and implementation of questionnaire modules measuring individual-level asset ownership as part of multi-topic household survey questionnaires. Third, an analytical background paper, jointly produced by the United Nations Statistics Division, UN Women and the World Bank, that will be submitted to the World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series and a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Whenever possible, discussion will be built upon existing efforts, including the draft *Technical Report on Measuring Individual-level Asset Ownership and Control*, conclusions from the July-

¹ The **EDGE** project is executed jointly by the UNSD and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and seeks to accelerate existing efforts to generate comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship, and asset ownership. The project focuses on (i) the development of a platform for international data and metadata compilation covering education, employment and health indicators, (ii) the development of international definitions and methods for measuring gender-disaggregated entrepreneurship and asset ownership, and (iii) testing the newly developed methods in selected countries. The project is guided by a steering committee composed of national statistical offices that are members of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, regional commissions, regional development banks, and key international agencies in the development of gender statistics, including the World Bank and OECD.

August 2013 Technical Meeting on Measuring Women’s Asset Ownership in Bangkok, as well as other relevant supplementary material including the questionnaires for the Gender Asset Gap Project and the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).

Which assets to focus on?

The first point is to separate the need for unique identification of assets from the need to deduce individual-level ownership rights for each identified asset. Starting with the former need, Table 1 presents the common set-up of modules as part of a multi-topic household/agriculture questionnaire instrument for the purpose of *identifying ALL* assets owned by any of the household members. We are not yet delving into the individual-level ownership rights associated with each identified asset since the way this will be done will partially depend on the design of the experiment (i.e. whether it could be done as part of the household questionnaire or whether an individual questionnaire instrument will be called for).

The first question is whether we need to ask about individual-level ownership rights to ALL types of assets. Depending on that, other specific questions may include whether jewelry should be captured as part of the durable goods module, whether the experiment questionnaire should feature a short module on ownership rights and management responsibilities in the context of household non-farm enterprises, and whether there should be a separate module to capture household enterprise assets not captured in the durable goods module.

Table 1: Common Set Up of Survey Modules Identifying Assets Owned by Household Members

Asset Type	Survey Questionnaire	Questionnaire Module	Unit of Analysis
Current Residence/Dwelling Unit	Household	Housing	Household
Household Durables	Household	Durable Goods - Filter Module: Closed list of durable good categories for identifying current number owned by any of the household members in each category Durable Goods - Asset Registry: Open list of each durable good currently owned by any of the household members	Household-Durable Good Category Household-Durable Good
Other Apartment/House; Non-Agricultural Land	Household	Other Assets - Filter Module: Closed list of other asset categories for identifying current number owned by any of the household members in each category Other Assets - Asset Registry: Open list of each of the other assets currently owned by any of the household members	Household-Other Asset Category Household-Other Asset
Financial Assets	Household	Financial Assets - Filter Module: Closed list of financial asset categories for identifying current number owned by any of the household members in each category Financial Assets and Liabilities - Asset Registry: Open list of each financial asset currently owned by any of the household members, as well as loans given and	Household-Financial Asset Category Household-Financial Asset

taken out

Agricultural Land	Agriculture	Parcel Roster - Main Season: Open list of each parcel owned and/or cultivated by any of the household members in the main reference agricultural season, identification of the tenure status of each parcel. Parcel Roster - Secondary Season: Open list of each ADDITIONAL parcel owned and/or cultivated by any of the household members in the secondary reference agricultural season that is NOT listed in the parcel roster for main reference agricultural season, identification of the tenure status of each parcel.	Household-Parcel Household-Parcel
Agricultural Equipment	Agriculture	Agricultural Implements - Filter Module: Closed list of agricultural implement categories for identifying current number owned by any of the household members in each category Agricultural Implements- Asset Registry: Open list of each agricultural implement currently owned by any of the household members	Household-Agricultural Equipment Category Household-Agricultural Equipment
Livestock	Agriculture	Animal Group Roster: Closed list of animal groups for identifying current number owned by any of the household members.	Household-Animal Group

Given the assets of interest, what should be the draft minimum set of questions beyond “Who owns...” that need to be included in the questionnaires to deduce ownership rights?

This will be important for verifying the internal consistency of reporting (with respect to a theoretical framework), particularly in instances where formal documentation is not available.

Who to interview, for what purpose, what would be the gold standard for that purpose?

One of the objectives of the EDGE project is to produce methodological guidelines on measuring asset ownership from a gender perspective, which can be integrated by national statistical offices into their regular production of gender statistics. The EDGE project also will help formulate, and provide guidance on producing, statistics for the two ownership-related indicators (Proportion of adult population owning land, by sex; and proportion of firms owned by women, by size) within the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators, approved by the UN Statistical Commission in 2013. Currently both indicators are classified as Tier-III (i.e. indicators for which international standards still need to be developed and which are not regularly produced by countries).² The EDGE project will help move these two Tier-III indicators into the group of Tier-II indicators.

The experiment is currently proposed as having multiple scenarios that will NOT vary in terms of (i) the initial identification of ALL assets owned by any of the household members (i.e. the

² Tier-II includes indicators that are conceptually clear with an agreed international definition but that are not yet regularly produced by countries, and Tier-I includes indicators that conceptually clear with an agreed international definition and that are regularly produced by countries.

range of survey modules capturing asset ownership – see below), and (ii) the range of the subsequent questions identifying the household members with ownership rights to the registered assets (the exact sequence and scope is yet to be determined). The scenarios will vary in terms of the selection of the respondents identifying the household members with ownership rights to the registered assets in each module.

The following five scenarios are being proposed. Each scenario will be used in a distinct group of households in the same survey. At the end of the experiment, aggregated results on ownership by sex from each scenario will be compared to help decide on the optimal and sustainable interview settings to be implemented by the EDGE project. The five interviewing scenarios are:

1. Primary adult respondent (self-identified, deemed as the most knowledgeable household member) asked to identify (i) ALL assets owned by any of the household members, (ii) household members with ownership rights to the registered assets: The usual LSMS practice that may involve multiple individuals during the course of the interviews depending on the module.
2. ALL adult household respondents *together* during the interview, a singular answer is converged upon, the group is asked to collectively identify (i) ALL assets owned by any of the household members, (ii) household members with ownership rights to the registered assets.
3. Primary male and primary female respondent (self-identified in accordance with the module), interviewed *separately*, asked individually to identify (i) ALL assets owned by any of the household members, (ii) household members with ownership rights to the registered assets.³
4. Primary male and primary female respondent (self-identified in accordance with the module), interviewed *together*, asked to collectively identify (i) ALL assets owned by any of the household members, (ii) household members with ownership rights to the registered assets (similar to approach 2 above).
5. An adult household member *randomly selected* from the pool of ALL adult household members asked to identify (i) ALL assets owned by any of the household members, (ii) household members with ownership rights to the registered assets.

³ For instance, the WEAI-linked surveys attempt to interview primary and secondary respondents separately. The primary and secondary respondents are self-identified as the primary members responsible for the decision making, both social and economic, within the household. They are usually husband and wife, however can also be another member as long as there is one male and one female aged 18 and over. It may also be the case that there is only a primary respondent if that person is a female and there is no adult male present in the household, or vice versa.

What type of interview metadata to collect, if any?:

The proposal is to collect metadata on the date, start and end time and respondent for each module and identify other household members that may have been present during the module administration. Other aspects of metadata collection that should be part of the questionnaire design?