Multiple topics in surveys
Key elements and ILO experience

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Multiple topics in one survey

Motivation

- Data production efficiency/constraints
- Analytical potential

Impact: attachment

- Main topic (host survey)
- Sample and/or selection
- Data collection – interviewers and respondents
- Data entry, processing and extrapolation
- All topics (host survey and modules)
- Data quality

Impact: multitopic by design

- All topics
- Same issues but must be solved at survey design stage
Integrating multiple topics in surveys

Key elements

- Logical interconnection
- “Natural” sequence of questions
- Transitions
- Burden – Quantity balance
- Minimal quality requirements
Integrating multiple topics in surveys

How to decide?

- Analysis of own experience
- Learning from others
- Latest international standards
- Tests and experiments
- Pilot surveys
ILO experience

- LFS add-on modules on a wide range of work-related topics
- Development of modules on earnings and time use
- Comparative LFS-MLSS pilot study in Sri Lanka (2019)
Sri Lanka pilot study

Key characteristics

- **Cognitive testing:** about 20 interviews for each questionnaire
  
  **Objective:** to check how respondents understood
  
  **Result:** identified possible issues and improved translation into local language

- **Field testing:** two waves – low and high agricultural season
  
  **Objective:** compare estimates generated by the two surveys
  
  **Sample:** 98 PSUs, 980 households for each questionnaire in three districts
  
  - Wave 1 (Mar-Apr): LFS – 964 hhs, 2588 pers; MLSS – 973 hhs, 2701 pers
  
  **Data collection:** CAPI
Sri Lanka pilot study

Key results

- The LFS performed better than the MLSS in detecting employment
  Especially, among women, people helping in family businesses or farms, people with more casual jobs or jobs with lower average working hours

- The LFS also detected better engagement in own-use production of goods

- The difference in estimates was associated with higher number of questions in the LFS and differences in questions’ wording