

Revision of the UN handbooks on household surveys: recommendations, timeline and the way forward

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Inaugural meeting: revision of the United Nations Handbooks related to Household Surveys, 22-24 January 2024, Shenzhen, China

Recommendations/reflections from the meeting (1)

- Will benefit from a “core” handbook that covers key aspects of household surveys, building on the foundation of the 1984 Handbook
- Will follow the GSBPM phases broadly, while incorporating lower-level specific points that are relevant/important for household surveys.
- A phase zero will be added on issues related to the initial planning/organization, project management, and address how a specific survey fits into the larger national data ecosystem.
- In connection to phase zero, will expand on other aspects of the enabling environment as discussed in the Position Household Surveys for the Next Decade Paper.

Recommendations/reflections from the meeting (2)

- Need to define the boundary of surveys that the handbook will speak to.
- Should strike a balance between principles and practical guidance. Principles need to be emphasized and practical solutions (example and tools, incl. those based on national experiences) can be organized around the principles.
- Should distinguish the established principles from innovations/new ideas that are still at the experimental phase.
- Efforts should be made to ensure that sufficient caution is provided on innovations/new ideas that might work depending on the national context.
- Should make references to existing materials, if available.

Recommendations/reflections from the meeting (3)

- How to take into consideration specificities in
 - Post-disaster/conflict sharing similar situation
 - Small island developing states (SIDS)

Modality for the output

- Do we need a printed copy?
- Increasing the accessibility and usability of revised handbook
 - Checklists
 - Web-based platform, with Links to software/tools
 - AI chatbot

Timeline

- End Jan 2024 to UNSC: submitting meeting report and recommendations
- Feb-March 2024: comments/input from the UNSC
- 15 Feb 2024 UNSC side event on the revision of the handbook: solicit input
- End March 2024: draft annotated outline (draft + framework for examples) for comments
- March – July 2024: expansion of the draft + division of labour + drafting + national experience collection
- August 2024: first set of training data for the ML/AI
- July – Sept 2024: continue the drafting, initial draft
- October 2024: 2nd EGM on the revision of the handbook, Oslo, Norway
- Nov 2024 – Jan 2025: Revise/continue the draft, second draft to UNSC 2025 and consultation
- Jan-Oct 2025: continue the drafting
- Oct 2025: 3rd EGM on the revision of the handbook
- Jan 2026: 3rd draft to UNSC

How do we collectively work together?

- ❑ What is your suggestion on the ways to collect national experiences?
- ❑ How can we work together on the drafting and reviewing?
 - Set a core drafting team
 - Periodic check-ins: online and in-person
 - Voluntary contributions very much welcomed
 - End March 2024: annotated outline
 - Oct 2024: first draft, 2nd Expert Group Meeting (EGM), Oslo, Norway
 - Jan 2025: 2nd draft
 - Oct 2025: 3rd draft, 3rd EGM (location TBD)