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The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS): How Statisticians and Donors Can Use it for Statistical Capacity Building*

(Includes a Demo of the GDDS Query Facility for Data on Unemployment, Poverty, and Technical Assistance Needs)

By

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* This document is being issued without formal editing.

** Statistics Department, International Monetary Fund. The views expressed in this report are those of the author and do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

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I. THE IMF'S GENERAL DATA DISSEMINATION SYSTEM (GDDS)

The IMF established the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) in 1997 to help countries improve data quality. The immediate goal of the GDDS is to provide a platform on which countries can evaluate their data needs and set out priorities in the form of plans. The GDDS provides a platform on which countries can highlight their assistance needs to implement their plans. The GDDS also aims to encourage countries to disseminate to the public comprehensive, timely, accessible, and reliable macroeconomic and socio-demographic statistics. Information on the GDDS and on the statistical capacity of participating countries is posted on the IMF's website (http://dsbb.imf.org). The first GDDS website posting of countries took place in early 2000; currently there are 57 participating countries.

The GDDS is ultimately a stepping stone to a country's subscription to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), where the focus is on data dissemination by national statistical agencies (or statistical units), that already meet high data quality standards. In 2003, for the first time, a former GDDS participant became an SDDS subscriber.

The GDDS helps meet the needs of countries' national statistical agencies, data users, and providers of technical assistance. It provides statistical agencies with a systematic framework to document their statistical systems, which makes it easier to evaluate existing practices and improve upon them.

For data users, the GDDS provides valuable information on data (the metadata), although it does not include current or time-series statistics as such. Finally, the GDDS is a rich resource for bilateral and multilateral providers of technical assistance. It can be a tool to enhance the cooperation between such donors as well as to enhance the cooperation among GDDS participants.

II. THE GDDS AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals identify and quantify specific gains that can be made by 2015 to improve the lives of the world's poor. The aim is to reduce poverty while improving health, education, and the environment.[1] Progress towards these goals is measured by
48 quantitative indicators, all of which are derived from national statistical systems. Effective national statistical systems, however, are not just to monitor progress towards these goals; they also underpin development by providing the basis for rational

[1] The Millennium Development Goals were endorsed by 189 countries at the September 2000 United Nations Millennium General Assembly in New York. The IMF is an active partner in these efforts, along with the World Bank Group, governments, and others in the development community. Details on statistical capacity building and Millennium Goals are on the UN website http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_goals.asp.

development policies, macro-economic management, and the efficient use of scarce resources. Statistical capacity building is thus a cornerstone of the Millennium Goals.[2]

The IMF's data standards can contribute to these goals by encouraging member countries to adopt standard practices in compiling and reporting statistics and the public dissemination of statistical information. The macroeconomic and socio-demographic data categories of the GDDS provide information on over half of the 48 Millennium indicators. Examples are data on national income and consumption, unemployment, exports, external debt and debt service. Similarly, the GDDS' socio-demographic data categories provide useful input into the Millennium indicators, especially population data, which is the basis for many of the indicators. Over time, and as demand for it grows, the GDDS may further expand to include or to cover in more depth other indicators of the Millennium Goals. In this respect, the conclusions of the UN Expert Group on Social Statistics will provide important input.

III. DIMENSIONS OF THE GDDS

The GDDS framework is built around four dimensions—data characteristics, quality, access, and integrity—to provide guidance for the overall development of macroeconomic, financial, and socio-demographic data. The framework takes into account the diversity of economies and different developmental requirements of statistical systems.

The data dimension includes coverage, periodicity (i.e., the frequency of compilation), and timeliness (i.e., the speed of dissemination). It addresses the development, production, and dissemination of two interrelated classes of data: (1) comprehensive frameworks for each of the four economic and financial sectors (real, fiscal, financial, and external); and
(2) indicators for each of these sectors plus the socio-demographic data.

With regard to comprehensive frameworks, the objective of the GDDS is to encourage the production and dissemination of complete sets of data with widest coverage, based on international methodologies. Particular aggregates and balances are provided for illustration, but the emphasis is placed on complete data sets rather than on specific indicators. Within the GDDS, Table A relates to comprehensive frameworks.

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[2] One major international initiative to increase statistical capacity building is the Partnership in Development for Statistics in the 21st Century (PARIS21), a consortium of international organizations (including the IMF), countries, NGOs, and individuals who are working together to increase statistical capacity in developing countries. To find out more about its work, click here: http://www.paris21.org. Statistical capacity building has also found entry into the IMF's poverty reduction strategies, as documented in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility-Supported (PRGF) programs.

In addition, the GDDS identifies three types of data categories and indicators, namely (1) summary measures derived from comprehensive frameworks (e.g., GDP for national accounts); (2) data that permit tracking of principal measures in the comprehensive frameworks (e.g., the industrial production index for real GDP); and (3) other data relevant to the sector (e.g., interest rates for the financial sector). Within the GDDS, Table B relates to data categories and indicators.

The GDDS also contains encouraged extensions. For example, as an extension to the balance of payments statistics, the GDDS encourages International Investment Position (IIP).
Non-guaranteed private external debt is an encouraged extension of the public and publicly guaranteed external debt data category.

The GDDS provides recommendations on good practice, based on current practices of agencies compiling and disseminating data in countries. Recommended good practices as to coverage, periodicity, and timeliness are summarized for comprehensive frameworks and data categories and indicators.

The quality dimension is an overarching concept, which includes the plans for improving data quality. This dimension has been further developed in the IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework (discussed in Section V). The focus for the access and integrity dimensions is on the development of policies and practices in line with the objectives of dissemination of readily accessible and reliable data. Information on access and integrity of the data and, especially, the agencies that produce and disseminate them, is essential in building confidence of the user community in official statistics. Within the GDDS, Table C relates to data integrity and access.

The metadata also include contact information on national officials responsible for the data concerned, along with information on the formats and titles of national statistical publications.

IV. How the GDDS Works in Practice

To get the GDDS project off the ground, the IMF invited country officials, especially the designated GDDS coordinators, to obtain training in a series of regional seminars. On a pilot basis, metadata were put together to serve as examples of the type of information expected by future participants. Starting in early 2000, the first metadata for countries participating in the GDDS were posted on the Fund's website.

The design and implementation of the GDDS has benefited from close collaboration with member countries and other international organizations, notably the World Bank, in regards to socio-demographic data. The Statistics Department of the IMF, in collaboration with the World Bank and other providers of technical assistance, and with generous financial support from Japan and the United Kingdom, continues to team up with countries wishing to participate in the GDDS.

Countries wishing to participate in the GDDS take the initiative and contact the IMF. Participation requires: (1) committing to using the GDDS as a framework for statistical development; (2) designating a country coordinator; and (3) preparing metadata that describe (a) current practices in the production and dissemination of official statistics, and (b) plans for short- and longer-term improvements in these practices.

Participants are requested to update their metadata if and when significant changes in their statistical practices or plans for improvement take place, but at least once a year. Details of the GDDS, including information about how countries may participate, is found in the "Guide to the General Data Dissemination System".

The GDDS website has become a widely-used forum with detailed information on the statistical capacity of participating countries. A major benefit of the site is that it helps build an international community of statisticians, in part because the GDDS framework creates a common language. Community-building is also facilitated because for each agency, the website lists contact persons and their "coordinates" (e-mail, telephone, addresses, etc.), which makes it easy for statisticians to identify and get in touch with colleagues from other countries to consult on specific problems. The IMF's GDDS Unit provides remote-support in many ways, including through the interaction with participants during the annual updates of the metadata. The GDDS unit also makes an effort to associate other donors whenever the opportunity arises. All of these features make the GDDS an inviting point of entry for countries wishing to advance their statistical capacity. The number of participants is expected to increase significantly in the coming months as a result of several regional team efforts for Anglophone and Lusophone Africa, Pacific Islands, and West Africa.

V. THE GDDS AND THE IMF'S DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (DQAF)

The GDDS is applied in the context of the Standards and Codes initiative developed by the international financial community in the aftermath of the financial crises. Under this initiative, the IMF and the World Bank prepare reports on the observance of internationally recognized standards (e.g., accounting, banking supervision, data standards). The IMF Statistics Department prepares its data standard reports (so-called Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSCs)), using the data quality assessment framework which augments and expands the GDDS.

The Data Quality Assessment Framework takes a systemic approach to data quality, including the institutional setting, laws and regulations pertaining to data production and dissemination, resources available to statistical agencies, and other important features of quality such as revision studies or coordination across data producing agencies. Country reports using this framework can be found on the Data Quality Reference Site (DQRS) http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/dqrs/dqrshome/. At present, the data reports are focused on macroeconomic indicators but a broadening of the DQAF in support of the Millennium Goals is underway. These data reports provide important background information on countries' statistical practices and systems.

The IMF and World Bank have already developed a component of the DQAF for income and poverty, which was first tested in the data ROSC report for Senegal (published on the IMF website). With the World Bank and UNESCO, a DQAF on education statistics is in preparation, and with the ILO, a DQAF on labor statistics is being developed. While the development and implementation will take some time, over the medium term, these efforts will make an important contribution to the Millennium Goals and Indicators.

VI. SETTING THE SCOPE OF SOCIAL STATISTICS: WHAT CAN THE IMF BRING TO THE TABLE?

The United Nation's Expert Group Meeting "Setting the Scope for Social Statistics" is convened to discuss the current state of social statistics, proposed strategies, and to define a program of work. As described in this paper, the IMF's GDDS includes information on many (but not all) of these and thus provides background and supports the initiative. As more countries are participating, the website http://dsbb.imf.org can become an important marketplace of information.

To illustrate the application of the GDDS website for the purposes of the Millennium indicators and to look at progress in statistical capacity building, a "Demo" of the website's capabilities is shown in the tables below.

The starting point is the GDDS "Customized Query" page shown in Table 1. It lays out the various options for conducting a study of metadata, institutional arrangements, or plans for improvements for countries, which participate in the GDDS.

Table 2 shows a customized query, asking for information about unemployment data of selected countries. It shows the information by country and permits a comparison across selected countries. Similar queries could be performed on all GDDS participants or on other indicators. For example, Table 3 shows information on the same group of countries for poverty data.

Table 4 below illustrates, for the same group of countries information for recent improvements and further plans along with technical assistance needs of a select group of countries, which can be a starting point for cooperating with other donors or for cooperation with other GDDS participants.

These examples show that the GDDS website can be a good resource for research on social data. Admittedly, the information contained on the website should be presented in more compartmentalized and more user-friendly ways. As yet, the GDDS is a relatively young and new initiative, which will develop and mature over time and as more experience is gained.

Table 1. GDDS Demonstration: The Customized Query Page

GDDS Customized Query -

This feature provides quick access to the metadata of GDDS participants for any combination of countries, comprehensive frameworks, data categories, disseminating agencies, and metadata elements (data coverage, plans for improvement, etc.). Please use the menus below to make your selections. Use the "Shift" and/or "Ctrl" keys to make multiple selections from the drop-down menus.

Metadata Topic (for further information see What is the GDDS?)

- ○ Frameworks
- ◉ Data Categories
- ○ Disseminating Agencies

Country List

- Albania
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas, The
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Benin
- Bolivia
- Botsw ana

Data Categories

- Real Sector
- ...National accounts aggregates
- ...Production index - manufacturing
- ...Production index - non-manufacturing
- ...Consumer price index
- ...Producer price index
- ...Employment
- ...Unemployment
- ...Wages/earnings
- Fiscal Sector

Metadata Dimensions and Elements

- Data
- ...Coverage
- ...Periodicity
- ...Timeliness
- ...Recent improvements
- ...Plans for improvement/Assistance needs
- ...Dissemination formats
- Quality
- ...Documentation of methodology
- ...Data to support cross-checks

Format Output Query :

- ◉ By Country
- ○ By Data Category
- ○ By Metadata Element

Table 2. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

Results of the Metadata Element(s) Queried

Elements: Coverage

Data Category: Unemployment

Country: Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia

Coverage	
Armenia	
Unemployment	The basic data on unemployment statistics are compiled by the State Employment Service, Ministry of Social Welfare, Republic of Armenia and the results are provided to the National Statistical Service (NSS). The data are collected at the regional level and pertain only to registered job seekers. The results represent the official unemployment estimates for Armenia and are published each month by the NSS. Registered job seekers are defined as able-bodied persons over 16, who applied to the State Employment Service for employment, regardless of the fact of their employment. The Employment and Wages Division of NSS estimates total unemployment (the number of registered and non-registered unemployed) by applying coefficients derived from data collected through the household surveys. Thus, since 2001, in addition to the indicator of the official unemployment rate, the annual publication "Socio-Economic Situation of the Republic of Armenia" reflects also data on the real unemployment rate derived according to the results of the Labor Force Sample Survey implemented annually in households. The concept of unemployment corresponds to International Labor Office (ILO) recommendations. Unemployment data are collected in a semi-annual sample survey of the labor force. The survey commenced in 1999, polling 1,075 households per survey. In 2001, the sample size was 1050 households per survey.
Benin	
Unemployment	Several surveys are conducted nation wide: 1) The biannual survey of the labor market situation is regularly conducted by the Employment and Training Observatory, under the supervision of the Ministry for Coordination of Government Action, Planning, Development, and Employment Promotion (MCCAG-PDPE). This survey provides indicators on employment in the urban modern sector and is published in the "Key Employment Indicators", a document created for that purpose. The employment data published for the first half of 2000 were collected from the technical directorates of the ministries, private employment offices, international agencies, job promotion support systems, labor-intensive work schemes, NGOs, and directly from the

Table 2. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

	modern sector enterprises established in the first half of 2000 and registered with the official corporate registry. The two main categories of indicators produced are largely labor market indicators and employment dynamics indicators. **Labor market indicators in the urban modern sector** cover the volume of job demand and supply. **Employment dynamics** are basically recruitment, job creation, reductions, and employment forecasts. 2) The 1997 Survey on the Structure of Employment in the Urban Modern Sector (excluding government) was carried out by the Employment and Training Observatory, under the supervision of the Ministry for Coordination of Government Action, Planning, Development, and Employment Promotion (MCCAG-PDPE), and published in a document (report) bearing the same title as the survey, which is now in its fifth edition. One set of data produced covers employment indicators and another set covers wage indicators in the urban modern sector, excluding government, and including some 545 enterprises of all sizes. **Employment indicators** cover the volume of jobs, job dynamics, characteristics and structures of permanent employment, individual characteristics of the permanently employed labor force, one-year and two-year employment forecasts. **Wage indicators** cover the overall wage bill. It should be noted that this data source supplements the first one on the civil service, and provides information on employment and wages in the entire urban modern sector. 3) The Simplified Household Survey (ELAM) has been conducted annually since 1990 by the Directorate of Social Statistics (DSS) of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE), under the supervision of the MCCAG-PDPE. The seventh edition in 1997 (ELAM VII) covers urban households in four cities--Cotonou, Parakou, Porto-Novo, and Abomey-Bohicon. The survey includes segments on the level and characteristics of unemployment, underemployment, and income, particularly from self-employment. The main **unemployment and underemployment indicators** are: reported (or apparent) unemployment rate, underemployment rate (other than real unemployment), overall underemployment; The main **income indicators** refer to the monthly income levels of self-employed persons. The reference age for defining the working population is eight years. The results of the ELAM are published in a survey report. The "Key Social Indicators" prepared by the DSS covers most of the indicators produced by all the above-cited sources on employment, unemployment, wages, and income. At this level, there is an effort to produce a more comprehensive national presentation and sectoral overview. Other indicators are then calculated on the basis of the gross data from the various sources.

Table 2. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia	
	Civil service employment and wage indicators were produced after the census of permanent government employees in 1997, the results of which have been updated every three months and published in the Key Indicators on Permanent Government Employees. This document is prepared within the framework of the "Single Reference File" under the supervision of the Ministry of Civil Service, Labor, and Administrative Reform (MFPTRA). The field of indicators covers both permanent government employees and contractual personnel. The main indicators from this source are divided into two categories, namely civil service employment and wage indicators. - The civil service employment indicators are essentially the numbers of government employees by status (permanent or contractual). - The civil service wage indicators make up the wage bill determined on the basis of the wages paid by the government to permanent and contractual employees.
Bolivia	
Unemployment	Annual employment and unemployment data for the period 1989-1995 are based on the Integrated Household Surveys (EIHs) conducted in 1989 (March), 1989 (November), 1990 (September), 1991(November), 1992 (November), 1993 (July-December), 1994 (July-December), and 1995 (June), which covered the departmental capitals and El Alto but excluded Cobija, the capital of the Pando Department. Sample size ranged from some 3,000 to 6,000 households. From 1996 to 1997, three National Employment Surveys (ENEs) were carried out in June and November 1996 and in November 1997. The coverage of these surveys was nationwide, yielding produced results for Bolivia, Urban Areas, Rural Areas, Departmental Capitals, El Alto, and Other Urban Areas. The sample size was more than 10,000 households. In the first quarter of 1999, the Ongoing Household Survey (ECH) was conducted in Bolivia's departmental capitals and El Alto. The sample size was some 6,000 households. The Survey of Improvement in Living Conditions (MECOVI) was carried out in November 2000. This survey was national in scope and the sample size was approximately 5,000 households. The results have not yet been published. It is hoped that annual data on employment will be obtained through this survey. The various surveys base their sampling frames on the 1976 and 1992 Population and Housing Censuses and have an independent sample design. However, the ENE's were designed as samples with replicas and rotations, and with four rounds a year. In most surveys, the sampling frame is two-stage, with selection proportional to the size in the first stage and a set number of units in the second stage. In general, the following data were researched: general characteristics, migration, education, health, employment, and housing. Since 1995, questions have been included to measure underemployment. The household survey (MECOVI) measures living conditions using the household expenditure method, the direct income method, and the indirect method of unsatisfied basic needs.

Table 2. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia	
	The working age population is defined as all persons 10 years and over and the reference period is one week. Persons who spent at least one hour during the reference period on an economic activity were considered working and those in search and available for work were deemed nonworking. Since 1996, the job search period has been extended to the four weeks preceding the interview. Another source of information on Employment Indicators will be the Population and Housing Census. The various labor market indicators are prepared on the basis of International Labor Office (ILO) recommendations and Labor Market Information System (SISMEL) agreements. Since 1996, quarterly employment indices have been prepared for the public and private sectors based on a survey carried out in the last month of each quarter (March, June, September, and December). The base period for these indicators is December 1995. The type of sample used is the stratified random sample by employment stratum. The type of index used is the Laspeyres quantity index. The public sector employment index shows trends in short-term employment at the institutional level and by occupational group. The coverage of this index is national and represents approximately 70-80 percent of the total public sector wage bill (index weighting variable). The institutional groups considered are the nonfinancial public sector (general government and public enterprises) and the financial public sector. General government is divided into central government, territorial governments, social security institutions, and universities. The occupational groups included are the following: executive personnel, professional and technical personnel, administrative personnel, service personnel, workers and occasional hires. The private sector employment index shows trends in short-term employment in four regions (La Paz and El Alto, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and other departments excluding Pando) for 21 economic activities (based on the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 3 and by occupational group. This index is based on a sample of 1,226 enterprises with five or more employees nationwide. The occupational groups covered are the following: managers and directors, professionals, other professionals, other employees, skilled workers, and other workers. The weights used correspond to the 1995 earnings period.
Cambodia	
Unemployment	The Labor Force Survey (LFS) of Cambodia (November 2000)--the first nationwide survey of its kind conducted in conjunction with the Asian Development Bank (ADB)--was developed to provide indicators that characterize the labor force of the country. The LFS of Cambodia is a stratified 2-stage sample survey of 5000 households located in 500 selected villages. Consequently, the data are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. Listing of all households in the primary sampling units is done by LFS Form 1, while the characteristic data are collected by a specifically designed questionnaire for surveying the households as secondary sampling units - LFS Form 2.

Table 2. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia	
	The survey is designed in two parts. Part I covers all persons and concerns the relationship to household head, age and sex; and Part II covers all persons who are 10 years and over and concerns the main indicators as: current school attendance and highest educational attainment, current activity (past week), economic activity or industry, nature and status of employment, remuneration, earnings and commissions received, hours worked, availability for/seeking additional work, reasons for not being available for work. All underlying concepts and definitions are made available to the public through the printed issue on LFS results. The publication presents short analysis and summary results, as well as detailed statistics broken down into cross-table characteristics: by sex, by age group, by primary occupation, by industry, by monthly average earnings, by average number of hours worked, by status of employment, and by highest education. The LFS of Phnom Penh is similarly designed as the LFS of Cambodia, and covers a sample of 68 regions (out of a total of 637 in Phnom Penh).
Ethiopia	
Unemployment	Labor force survey provides data on the main characteristics of the work force engaged or available to be engaged in productive activities during a given period. The Central Statistical Authority conducts the labor force survey in Ethiopia The first surveys conducted were Rural Labor Force survey of 1982, the 1976 Addis Ababa Manpower and Housing Sample Survey, and the 1978 Survey on population and Housing Characteristics of Seventeen Major Towns. Moreover, some data on the labor force were also collected as a part of other surveys such as the 1990 Family and Fertility Survey, 1996 Urban informal Sector Sample Survey and in the country wide Decennial (every ten years) Population and Housing Censuses of Ethiopia conducted in 1984 and 1994. Until 1999, however, there hasn't been a comprehensive national Labor force survey covering urban and rural areas with a wide range of questions. The 1999 National Labor Force Survey was designed to be as comprehensive as possible, to provide statistical data on the size and characteristics of the employed, unemployed, underemployed and the non-active population of the country. The sample size is 47 basic urban domains (Reporting levels) including total urban (regional and country level) and 51 basic rural domains (reporting levels) including total rural (regional and country level). Sample enumeration areas (EA's) from each domain were selected using systematic probability proportional to size the measure used being number of households obtained from the 1994 Population and Housing Census. From category a total of 913 EA's and from category II, a total of 1428 EA's were selected. With in each EA 35 systematically selected households were selected as the sample. All the definitions and methodology are in line with (International Labor Organization) ILO recommendations. Classification of industries is according to International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) while classification and definition of occupation is according to ILO recommendations. The working age population comprises all persons aged 10 years and over. There was also child labor force survey conducted in 2001. Population and Housing census of Ethiopia conducted in 1984 & 1994 are also the sources of employment. They have labor force by detailed international standard industrial classification of all economic activities and employing agency or self-employment, and the level of unemployment. (Refer to population metadata for more details).

Table 3. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Poverty Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

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Results of the Metadata Element(s) Queried

Elements: Coverage

Data Category: Poverty

Country: Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia

Armenia	
Data Category- Poverty	
Coverage	With the purpose of studying population living standards and poverty incidence, a household survey in 1996 and 1998-1999 was conducted in two stages with the technical support of the World Bank: *Round I:* "Survey of living standards". Survey period - 1996 (during one month: from 15 November to 15 December) 5040 households were covered by the survey. Sampling was random and equi-probable over the whole territory of the Republic. Based on the survey results, the following indicators were processed: • distribution of consumption expenditures and incomes of the population • poverty line or minimal consumption budget • proportion of the population living below the poverty line • budget deficit, depth of poverty. *Round II:* "Integrated survey of living standards". Survey period - from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. Sampling size - 3600 households, 300 households - every month. Monthly rotation of inhabited locations and households. Based on the survey results, the same indicators were processed. Since 2000 the household surveys have been conducted within the framework of the state budget. However, the sample survey of 3600 households planned for 2000 has not been conducted due to budget under-financing. The size of the sample survey conducted from January 1 to December31, 2001 comprised 4128 households and covered all marzes of the Republic. 344 households were surveyed every month. The survey design included a rotation of households in cities and a rotation of communities in rural areas. All of the above-mentioned indicators were collected. ` At present (2002), the sample of the households survey comprises 4644 households.

Table 3. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Poverty Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

Benin	
Data Category- Poverty	
Coverage	Studies on standards of living in urban areas, entitled "Urban Poverty Profile and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Urban Households" are based on the Light Household Survey (ELAM). The ELAM have been conducted annually since 1990 by the Directorate of Social Statistics (DSS) of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE), under the supervision of the Minister responsible for Coordination of Government Action under the Development and Employment Promotion Plan (MCCAG-PDPE). The fifth and sixth survey editions conducted in 1995 and 1996 (ELAM V and VI), cover urban households in four cities in the country, namely Cotonou, Parakou, Porto-Novo, and Abomey-Bohicon. Similarly, the ninth survey edition conducted in 1999 (ELAM IX) covered all urban households living in the 10 urban districts of the country plus the Azovè district). Every five years, the survey includes a section on "Expenditure and Consumption" relating to urban poverty. These basic indicators on poverty are published in a summary document entitled "Profile of Urban Poverty and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Urban Households." These indicators are grouped into seven main categories: poverty profile, demographic/poverty, employment/poverty, income/poverty, expenditure/poverty, education/poverty, and health/poverty. Studies on standards of living in urban areas (ECVR) were conducted in 1994/95 and in 1999/2000 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MDR) in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in the context of establishing an observatory on rural households. Following the qualitative study on the perceptions and dimensions of poverty, well-being and wealth (EPPR)--a focus group survey conducted in 1993/94 with a view to improving targeting--the ECVR conducted in 1994/95 led to drafting a document entitled "Profile of Rural Poverty and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Rural Households." This study divides rural areas into eight agro-ecological zones, in which poverty indicators were monitored. These zones are: the zone to the extreme north of Benin, the cotton belt in north Benin, the food crop zone of south Borgou, the west Atacora zone, the cotton belt in central Benin, the arid clay-soil zone, the lowlands, and the fishing zone. The resulting document publishes poverty indicators for the rural area. The key indicators identified in the document on the living conditions in urban areas are drawn from the ECVR for rural areas, with the addition of certain categories of indicators and the introduction of the nutrition indicator category. The ECVRs are surveys involving four rounds of visits over a one-month period with reference period of three months. The ELAMs and ECVRs fall within the scope of the Social Change Observatory (OCS).

Table 3. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Poverty Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

Bolivia	
Data Category- Poverty	
Coverage	The primary data sources for calculating indicators of poverty incidence and the poverty gap (both measured in terms of income and consumption) are: the 1999 and 2000 Household Living Standards Measurement Survey (MECOVI) and the 1990 Household Budget Survey. Information is also available on the 1976 and 1992 poverty incidence indicators, for which the Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN) Method developed for those year's Censuses of Population and Housing was used. To calculate the indicators of housing distribution by water source, housing distribution by waste elimination system, and household distribution by number of persons per bedroom, the data sources were the 1976 and 1992 Censuses of Population and Housing, the Integrated Household Surveys, the National Employment Surveys, and the National Demographic and Health Surveys (ENDSA) carried out by the INE. The geographic coverage of the MECOVI is national and the data are representative for urban and rural areas and ecological regions: high plateau, valley, and plains. Data are available at the national, departmental, urban, rural, and capital city levels, and, in the case of census-based data, at the provincial, municipal, and other levels. The coverage of the ENDSA is national and departmental. The size of the last survey was approximately 5,000 households. The geographic coverage of the 1990 Household Budget Survey is limited to four cities: La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, and El Alto. The most important poverty indicators include: • Poverty incidence - the indicator was calculated on the basis of consumption and income, and pertains to both households and individuals. Poverty lines, based on the 1990 Household Budget Survey and taking account of the change in the FY 1999 price index, were used for the definition of poverty incidence. • Poverty gap - the calculation was based on consumption and income. Poverty lines, based on the 1990 Household Budget Survey and taking account of the change in the FY 1999 price index, were used for the definition of poverty incidence. The coverage is national and representative for urban and rural areas and ecological regions: high plateau, valley, and plains. • Poverty line - Calculation of the FY 1999 poverty line was based on the indicator calculated in the 1990 Household Budget Survey, taking account of the change in the FY 1999 CPI. Current plans call for calculating the poverty line using the 1999 Household Living Standards Measurement Survey (MECOVI), once the database is officially made available. • Housing distribution by water source, housing distribution by wastewater elimination system, and household distribution by number of persons per bedroom - The data on these indicators are expressed in percentages. Data can be obtained at the national, departmental, urban, rural, and capital city levels, and, in the case of census-based data, at the provincial, municipal, and other levels. The indicator is calculated using data from censuses (the most recent was conducted in 2001 but results are not available yet) and from surveys (Integrated

Table 3. GDDS Demonstration: Coverage of Poverty Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

	Household Surveys, National Employment Surveys, National Demographic and Health Surveys) carried out by the National Statistics Institute. • Other MECOVI indicators: demographic characteristics; housing; education; health; internal and external migration; access to social programs; employment; expenditure; and household income. The survey sample is approximately 5,000 households.
Cambodia	
Data Category- Poverty	
Coverage	Estimates of the distribution of income and consumption by household in Cambodia are based on the Cambodia Socio-Economic Surveys (CSES) conducted since 1993. The 1997 and 1999 surveys are multi-topic household-based surveys. The surveys carried out prior to 1997 covered a narrower range of topics and were based on smaller sample sizes. Because of security concerns, certain areas of the country have been excluded from the surveys, although the size of the excluded areas has diminished over time. The sample frame for the 1999 CSES was based on 1998 General Population Census, but the scope of the CSES was restricted to all private households, including one-person households. People living in collective housing facilities (such as the military) and those without a fixed abode were excluded. Sampling was conducted through a two-stage stratified sample. Ten strata were identified based on 5 geographic zones which were further divided into urban and rural sectors. The sample included 6000 households from 600 villages distributed in all 24 provinces of the country. Approximately 4.4 percent of all villages were excluded from the sampling frame for security reasons. The 1999 CSES employed two questionnaires: a village questionnaire which gathered village-level information on demographic characteristics; economy and infrastructure; education; health and immunization; retail prices and wages; rainfall and natural disasters, and a household questionnaire. The "core" household questionnaire was based on the 1997 CSES. The core questionnaire covered basic demographic characteristics; education; economic activities; health; housing and environment; household consumption expenditure; household assets and liabilities; fertility, mortality, and child care. Added to this was a new module, administered to all sample households, which covered, household income, employment, and child labor. Based on experience in 1997, changes made to the 1999 core questionnaire to improve the administration of the questionnaire and the scope of the questionnaire was expanded to cover additional topics of interest for poverty analysis. The 1999 CSES was conducted in two rounds to capture seasonal variations. The field work for round 1 was conducted between January and March 1999; field work for round 2 was conducted between June and September 1999.

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	Consumption poverty indicators derived from the CSES (such as the headcount ratio and poverty gap) are based on a food poverty line which refers to a minimal standard of living that is just sufficient to meet food consumption needs and a higher poverty line, which includes a minimal allowance for non-food consumption. There is no officially recognized poverty line in Cambodia. The quantities of the food items in the food poverty line consumption bundle were established in the 1993/94 CSES. The value of the bundle is then updated based on prices collected as part of the village questionnaire. The value of non-food consumption is based upon regression estimates of the value of non-food spending by households at the food poverty line.
Ethiopia	
Data Category- Poverty	
Coverage	The 1999/2000 Household Income, Consumption And Expenditure Survey (HICES) and The 2000 Household Welfare Monitoring Survey Of Central Statistical Authority: - These surveys were conducted in two rounds, i.e., taking into account the two major seasons in the country-- the wet/cultivation season and the dry/harvest season, in selected enumeration areas (EAs) in all administrative regions of the country. Regarding HICES coverage, a total of 1264 EAs, 722 EAs from rural areas and 542 EAs from urban areas were selected and the surveys were conducted on the basis of 12 rural and 16 urban households selected from each EA. All types of households have been included except the homeless people, households living in collective quarters (i.e., non conventional households), non -sedentary population and foreigners throughout the nation. With regard to ultimate sampling units, it was planned to cover a total of 17336 (8664 in rural and 8672 in urban areas) all over the country. The response rate was about 100 percent (99.95 for rural and 100 percent for urban). Data covered under HICES can be grouped into three types. Namely: - 1. Population size, age, sex, marital status and education. 2. Household consumption expenditure, that is, consumption of food, drinks and tobacco 3. Household expenditure on various consumption and non- consumption items such as, expenditure on clothing and footwear, household goods and services, house rent, energy and water, transport and communication, entertainment and education, personal care and effects and household non consumption expenditure items and finally household revenue and receipts. The methodology is according to UN standard recommendation. The expenditure is registered on accrual basis rather than cash basis. The classification used for expenditure is UN-SNA 1968 classification of Household Consumption Goods.

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	For Household Consumption, Expenditure and Income, the interview method and objective measurement of household consumption items were utilized throughout the survey period. In rural areas data were collected in such a way that the 12 households selected from each rural enumeration area were grouped into two, each group consisting of six households to be interviewed over a period of a month. The enumerator visited two households daily so that each household is interviewed twice a week and eight times during the one-month period in each round. In the urban case, the 16 households were also groped into two. Half of them were interviewed during the first month while the remaining eight households were interviewed the following month. The workload distribution of the enumerators in the urban case was to interview a maximum of three households per day. As in the rural case, here too, each sample household was interviewed twice weekly, i.e., eight times monthly in each round. It is believed that the relatively frequent visit made to each household was essential to control the errors arising from memory lapse, which is common in household surveys of this nature. The households are encouraged to keep diary of their expenditure so that they can remember their consumption and expenditure easily. The year 2000 Welfare Monitoring Survey covered the population in sedentary areas of the country on a sample basis. Total of 1992 enumeration areas (EAs) 1450 in rural and 542 in urban areas were selected to be covered in the survey from all regions. The survey succeeded to cover 1984 EAs (99.6) of the selected EAs in the rural and urban areas. The survey was conducted on the basis of 12 rural and 16 urban households. With regard to ultimate sampling units, A total of 26072 households (17400 in rural and 8 672 in urban areas) all over the country. In welfare survey the type of data collected include household demographic statistics, education, health, quality of housing, access to basic facilities such as food market, post office, telephone, ownership of household assets, anthropometry (weight and height) of children. All the fieldwork of the welfare monitoring survey was conducted at the end of each round (July and January) and was basically completed within two visits in each round. National poverty line, in general, uses the two documents of Central Statistical Authority. Namely Household Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey and Household Welfare Monitoring Survey. The available document so far is 'poverty situation in Ethiopia', welfare monitoring unit, ministry of economic development and cooperation, February 1999, Addis Ababa. The report calculates for the first time at the national level, the absolute and relative poverty lines and poverty indices of the country. Major outputs of the report include: regional level price indices, levels of absolute and relative poverty, per capita expenditure levels and patterns, income distribution, regional poverty profile, health and education status and availability and use of clean water and sanitation facilities. The report constitutes the first major output of a welfare monitoring system established by the government in collaboration with the world bank. The government established the system to monitor the impacts of its socio-economic reform measure at household level. The system is built around the framework of an annual review process whereby changes in the

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	welfare status of the people are monitored and reviewed each year and the implications for policy is considered. The poverty data analysis undertaken is mainly based on basic identification method. Consumption aggregate used in the analysis covers both cash expenditures on food and non-food, as well as imputations for own-produced consumption including housing, firewood, water, etc. various normalization procedures were used before poverty indices were calculated. East African adult equivalence scale was used to express consumption in terms of adult equivalence and scale of economies was applied to adjust for economies of scale in household consumption. To account for regional variations in prices, consumption was deflated using regional price indices. The price indices were computed based on the unit values of items reported in the household survey. Hence, price information within the survey was used rather than external prices. Finally the poverty line was determined using a minimum food/nutrition intake (2200 calories per adult per day being the benchmark) and an Engels curve estimate was used to determine the non-food share of households whose food expenditures is just in line with the food poverty line estimated. Regarding PRSP, basic indicators are suggested for every sector. For example for agricultural sector indicators like real agricultural income and cultivated areas were suggested. Household Income, consumption and expenditure survey, labor force survey, annual agricultural of Central Statistical Authority and National Accounts statistics are sources for this sector. Education sector has basic indicators like gross enrollment, girls to boys ratio, education budget share, literacy rate etc. The sources of data for this are Ministry of Education annual Statistics and the 1984 and 1994 National Population and housing Censuses. Health sector has indicators such as infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, access to health etc. Thus the major source Ministry of Health annual basic indicators document, Household Welfare Monitoring Survey and Population and Housing Censuses and Demographic and Health survey of Central Statistical Authorities. Water Sector - access to clean water is an indicator for this Household Welfare Monitoring Survey and Population and Housing Censuses of Ethiopia by Central Statistical Authority. In Addition data can be available from Water development commission and Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority. For road infrastructure for example road network is considered as basic indicator for poverty monitoring. Therefore the data is available from Ethiopian road Authority, Central Statistical Authority, Investment Authority and Welfare monitoring survey of CSA.

Table 4. GDDS Demonstration: Recent Improvements and Technical Assistance Needs for Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

Results of the Metadata Element(s) Queried

Elements: Recent improvements, Plans for improvement/Assistance needs

Data Category: Unemployment

Table 4. GDDS Demonstration: Recent Improvements and Technical Assistance Needs for Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

Country: Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Ethiopia

Armenia	
Data Category- Unemployment	
Recent improvements	With the purpose of improving the statistical information on labor market, the questionnaires on labor force statistics and methodological instructions for their completion were revised, and were brought into alignment with the International Labor Organization (ILO) standards.
Plans for Improvement	**Short Term** - 1. Redesign the labor force sample survey of households, using the new frame derived from the 2001 population census results. 2. To continue household surveys on types of activity in the labor market in order to improve the data on employment and unemployment. The survey will also improve the unemployment undercoverage, apparent in current reporting. 3. It is planned to conduct the household surveys for estimating the unemployment, labor force demand and other indicators characterizing unemployment, within the framework of TACIS Program (Statistics -6) **Medium Term** - Links of classifications applied in the employment statistics domain with the classifications of economic activities. **Technical Assistance Needs** **Short Term** - Technical and financial assistance for conducting the labor surveys. **Medium Term** - It is necessary to conduct a survey from the viewpoint of qualitative improvements in indicators on employment structure and coverage based on the population census data.
Benin	
Data Category- Unemployment	
Recent improvements	
Plans for Improvement	**Short Term** - • With a view to enhance the Single Reference File, conduct another census of permanent and contractual government employees, with particular attention to be paid to seriously ill employees who have been overlooked in prior surveys. • Increase the sampling ratio of the various surveys to test the robustness of the indicators. • Conduct a special study of unemployment in the informal sector, given the importance of this sector to the national economy. **Medium Term** – None **Technical Assistance Needs** **Short Term** - None **Medium Term** - None

Table 4. GDDS Demonstration: Recent Improvements and Technical Assistance Needs for Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

Bolivia

Data Category- Unemployment	
Recent improvements	• The inclusion of questions on income, particularly that of independent workers, and on household expenditure, taking account of different behaviors in urban and rural areas. • The coverage and representativity of public sector employment indices were improved with the inclusion of the Ministry of Education in the sample. Representativity, previously 60 percent, is now 80 percent. • The breakdown of the basic data on specific occupations was improved for the private sector and the classification was itemized by economic activity.
Plans for Improvement	**Short Term -** • Additional indicators were designed to assess the status of households in terms of living standards, marginality, and poverty, and their relation to employment. • Improve the methodological approach developed to estimate Underemployment Equivalent Rate. **Medium Term -** • Reduce the lag in publication of the results of the various surveys. • Use of joint surveys to evaluate the status of the informal sector. • Implementation of new indicators-for the sake of consistency-for surveys of establishments, such as: turnover indices, labor costs, and components of earnings. • Create indicators on Use of Time connected with employment. **Technical Assistance Needs** **Short Term** - Technical assistance on methodological practices. **Medium Term -**
Cambodia	
Data Category- Unemployment	
Recent improvements	The Phnom Penh LFS was extended to a nationwide LFS of Cambodia. The results of the both surveys, which were conducted in 2000, were published in May 2001.
Plans for Improvement	**Short Term - -** Conduct LFS for Phnom Penh on a quarterly basis along with an annual nationwide LFS of Cambodia. - Analyze the results of the nationwide LFS in comparison with those for Phnom Penh. **Medium Term** - Conduct the nationwide LFS of Cambodia on a quarterly basis in parallel with the LFS of Phnom Penh. **Technical Assistance Needs** **Short Term** - Technical assistance required for analysis of the results of the nationwide LFS of Cambodia in comparison with those for Phnom Penh. **Medium Term - -** Training for the NIS staff involved with the conduct of the LFS. - Financing the development of relevant infrastructure at NIS.

Table 4. GDDS Demonstration: Recent Improvements and Technical Assistance Needs for Unemployment Data for Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, and Ethiopia

Ethiopia

Data Category- Unemployment	
Recent improvements	The 1999 Labor Force Survey.
Plans for Improvement	**Short Term** - Preparatory work for the 2004 population and housing census. **Medium Term** - To conduct continuous employment and unemployment monitoring system especially for urban areas to know the dynamically changing unemployment indicator if possible on quarterly basis taking few sample households. Establish the survey on every ten-year cycle between two consecutive populations and housing censuses time and conducting of Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia. **Technical Assistance Needs** **Short Term** - Financing, short term training abroad regarding labor statistics, capacity building Technical Assistance, assistance even to increase the dissemination capacity of the data and to conduct the survey. **Medium Term** - Financing, capacity building Technical Assistance, and short and long-term training for the surveys and census and above all for employment and unemployment monitoring. Short-term training abroad and domestic and equipment like internet and CD-ROM, CD- copier etc to increase the dissemination quality and for keeping quality data base.