

IARIW-TNBS Conference on Measurement of Income, Wealth and Well-being in Africa

Pre-conference training session on Income and Wealth Measurement in Household Surveys

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Organizer

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Motivation

Measurement of household income and wealth is notoriously challenging. In developing countries, where large segments of the population work in the informal sector or are engaged in activities that are often seasonal (e.g. agriculture) and where record keeping and financial accounting are relatively rare, the measurement challenges are in many ways different from those prevalent in high-income countries, on which much of the literature on income and wealth measurement has focused. Furthermore, since the prevailing metric for poverty measurement in developing countries remain consumption expenditures, a disproportionate amount of effort has been made to standardize and disseminate best practices for the measurement of consumption in developing countries, with the collection of income and wealth receiving far less attention.

Despite the difficulties associated with collecting information on household income and wealth in developing countries, there are many compelling reasons to still pursue collection of quality income and wealth data. Income measures are necessary to study the sectoral composition of the economy in microeconomic analyses, how households derive their livelihoods, and the productivity of different household assets, factors of production, and economic activities. Even when consumption expenditures serve as the primary measure of standards of living, income-based measures may prove more effective in identifying the chronic and transient poor as well as understanding the sectoral composition of income. The source and nature of household income is a critically important factor in understanding household welfare dynamics. Further, analyses of intrahousehold distribution of resources, clearly of great interest in well-being and

distributional analyses, would also benefit from more precise and accurately measured household income and wealth. As developing countries continue to grow and transform, it is likely that the formal sector will become a larger and more important share of economic activity and thus the need and importance of data on household income is expected to grow over time.

Given the growing need for collection of high-quality information on household income and welfare coupled with the lack of experience and expertise in its collection within developing countries, there have been recent efforts to fill this gap. One such initiative is currently being implemented under the leadership of the World Bank's Rome-based [Center for Development Data](#) (C4D2). The C4D2 training initiative, conducted in partnership with several Italian organizations and African institutions, aims at improving and harmonizing the curricula of seven African regional statistical training centers, facilitating the uptake of global standards and best practices in household survey design, creating a network of household survey experts at the regional level, and promoting harmonization across countries. Under the training initiative, which adopts a training of trainers' approach, C4D2 has organized training programs and workshops in several thematic areas, the latest of which is a training program on measurement of household income and wealth. Lecturers from the African statistical training centers will then utilize the training material for teaching activities in their own institutions.

Drawing on the materials developed under the training program on measurement of household income and wealth under the C4D2, the focus of the training session will be on the practical considerations and best practices for the collection of this information via household surveys and take a more hands-on approach with participants than conference sessions.

Description

This session aims at to train graduate students, junior national statistics office (NSO) staff and other survey practitioners, as well as early career researchers in survey methods, in the fundamentals of collecting and analyzing information on household income and wealth via household surveys.

In particular, the session will:

- (i) Provide an overview of the concepts of income and wealth as they relate to the measurement of welfare and how they differ from the concept of consumption.
- (ii) Discuss widely used definitions and approaches to defining and measuring income and its components (with a focus on employment, property income, income from the production of household services for own consumption, and income from transfers) according to international standards.
- (iii) Illustrate approaches to and issues with the measurement of wealth using household surveys.
- (iv) Examples of (best) international practice will be given throughout, and specific issues in data collection on income and wealth will be discussed (sampling design, under-reporting, non-response, etc.).
- (v) Discuss the use of selected analytical tools and issues with dealing with anomalies in income and wealth data.

Audience

The target audience for the session will be young professionals who are early in their career or advanced in their graduate studies, junior staff from NSOs, other early career survey practitioners and researchers.

Format of the session

The training session will be conducted over a full day and consist of a series of ninety-minute sessions covering selected topics in income and wealth measurement. Each session will consist of a sixty-minute presentation followed by thirty minutes of facilitated discussion with questions and comments by the audience members.

Speakers

The session will be facilitated by World Bank staff with contributions from international experts from partner institutions. An agenda will be circulated as soon as the list of speakers is confirmed.

Attendance and registration

There are a limited number of places in the training session: participants are encouraged to register early and, in any case, no later than September 30th, 2022. Participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Financial support

Financial support to cover the costs of participation in the training session and the IARIW-TNBS Conference is going to be available for a limited number of participants. If you would like to apply for support please contact Alberto Zezza (azezza@worldbank.org) and Maria Chiara De Sando (mdesando@worldbank.org) including a recent CV and a short explanation of your interest and motivation in attending the training session and the conference.