

Introduction

Iraq is considered a leader in household expenditure and income surveys where the first was conducted in 1946 followed by surveys in 1954 and 1961. After the establishment of Central Statistical Organization, household expenditure and income surveys were carried out every 3-5 years in (1971/ 1972, 1976, 1979, 1984/ 1985, 1988, 1993, 2002 / 2007).

Implementing the cooperation between CSO and WB, Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) launched fieldwork on IHSES on 1/1/2012 . The survey was carried out over a full year covering all governorates including those in Kurdistan Region.

Iraqi side prepared the field work implementation plan and mechanism, contributed to questionnaire and sample design, selected the households , prepared and trained field staff , updated lists and maps, field work implementation, data entry and results generation while World Bank provided technical assistance, defined project objectives and designed the questionnaire and outputs tables.

Objectives

1. Provide data for poverty analysis and measurement and monitor, evaluate and update the implementation Poverty Reduction National Strategy issued in 2009.
2. Provide comprehensive data system to assess household social and economic conditions and prepare the indicators related to the human development.
3. Provide data that meet the needs and requirements of national accounts.
4. Provide detailed indicators on consumption expenditure that serve making decision related to production, consumption, export and import.
5. Provide detailed indicators on the sources of households and individuals income.
6. Provide data necessary for formulation of a new consumer price index number.

Sample

A. Design

Sample size was (25488) household for the whole Iraq, 216 households for each district of 118 districts , 2832 clusters each of which includes 9 households distributed on districts and governorates for rural and urban.

B. Sample frame

Listing and numbering results of 2009-2010 Population and Housing Survey were adopted in all the governorates including Kurdistan Region as a frame to select households, the sample was selected in two stages:

Stage 1: Primary sampling unit (blocks) within each stratum (district) for urban and rural were systematically selected with probability proportional to size to reach 2832 units (cluster).

Stage two: 9 households from each primary sampling unit were selected to create a cluster, thus the sample size of total survey clusters was 25488 households distributed on the governorates, 216 households in each district.

C. Sampling Stages

In each district , the sample was selected in two stages:

Stage 1: based on 2010 listing and numbering frame 24 sample points were selected within each stratum through systematic sampling with probability proportional to size, in addition to the implicit breakdown urban and rural and geographic breakdown (sub-district, quarter, street, county, village and block).

Stage 2: Using households as secondary sampling units , 9 households were selected from each sample point using systematic equal probability sampling.

Sampling frames of each stages can be developed based on 2010 building listing and numbering without updating household lists. In some small districts, random selection processes of primary sampling may lead to select less than 24 units therefore a sampling unit is selected more than once , the selection may reach two cluster or more from the same enumeration unit when it is necessary.

Sampling weights and selection probability

The selection probability (ϕ_{hij}) of household (h_{ij}) in PSU (h_i) of stratum (h) is given by

Where (n_{hi}) indicates the number of households in (PSU) and (N_h) indicates the number of households in stratum. The two symbols are mentioned in the right side of the formula and represent the probability of PSU selection and conditional probability for household selection within PSU.

The formula can be simplified as follows:

$$(P_{hij} = 216/N_h)$$

This formula is given an equal probability to select 216 households as a sample in each district, it simplifies the process of results analysis where sample is auto-weighted to analyze results at district level whereas survey results analysis at governorate and national level requires the appropriate probability processes.

Questionnaire

Preparation

The questionnaire of 2006 survey was adopted in designing the questionnaire of 2012 survey on which many revisions were made . Two rounds of pre-test were carried out . Revision were made based on the feedback of field work team, World Bank consultants and others, other revisions were made before final version was implemented in a pilot survey in September 2011.

After the pilot survey implemented, other revisions were made in based on the challenges and feedbacks emerged during the implementation to implement the final version in the actual survey.

Questionnaire Parts

The questionnaire consists of four parts each with several sections:

Part 1: Socio – Economic Data:

- Section 1: Household Roster
- Section 2 : Emigration
- Section 3 : Food Rations
- Section 4 : housing
- Section 5 : education
- Section 6 : health
- Section 7 : Physical measurements
- Section 8 : job seeking and previous job

Part 2: Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Expenditures :

- Section 9 : Expenditures on Non – Food Commodities and Services (past 30 days).
- Section 10 : Expenditures on Non – Food Commodities and Services (past 90 days).
- section 11: Expenditures on Non – Food Commodities and Services (past 12 months).
- Section 12: Expenditures on Non-food Frequent Food Stuff and Commodities (7 days).
- Section 12, Table 1: Meals Had Within the Residential Unit.
- Section 12, table 2: Number of Persons Participate in the Meals Within Household Expenditure Other Than its Members.

Part 3: Income and Other Data:

- Section 13: Job
- Section 14: paid jobs

- Section 15: Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- Section 16: Household non – agricultural projects
- Section 17: Income from ownership and transfers
- Section 18: Durable goods
- Section 19: Loans, advances and subsidies
- Section 20: Shocks and strategy of dealing in the households
- Section 21: Time use
- Section 22: Justice
- Section 23: Satisfaction in life
- Section 24: Food consumption during past 7 days

Part 4: Diary of Daily Expenditures

Diary of expenditure is an essential component of this survey. It is left at the household to record all the daily purchases such as expenditures on food and frequent non-food items such as gasoline, newspapers,...etc. during 7 days.

Two pages were allocated for recording the expenditures of each day, thus The roster will be consists of 14 pages.

Metadata

Concepts and definitions

Household: consists of one or more people who live in the same dwelling and share at meals and other living necessities.

Household size: Number of resident people at survey period.

Age (full years): Age is considered based on birthday date.

Educational status: the educational status of the individual aged 6+ years in the survey period.

School enrollment: each individual aged 6+ admitted in private or public educational institution inside or outside Iraq for a period not less than an academic year in full or half time is considered a pupil.

Education stage: Academic years attended to get a given educational level, may be primary (6years) or secondary (9 years).....,etc.

Educational degree: higher degree the individual get or the state in terms of reading and writing: illiterate, read, write, primary, intermediate, secondary, diploma, bachelor and doctorate, can't read or write a simple in any language.

Chronic diseases: Long – lasting in its effects such as heart diseases, blood pressure and diabetes, the duration of the disease is not less than 6 months.

Disability: weakness or physical or mental impairment such as amputation, hemiplegia, handicap and mental retardation.

Public health center: Centers and institutions that provide health care services.

Total fertility: Total live births occur to a woman during childbearing years (15-49).

Live birth: births occur after twenty seventh week (7 months) when the fetus exists the maternal body and subsequently shows any sign of life such as breathing and crying even if it directly dies.

Relation to labor force: State of individual aged 12+ in terms of relation to labor force during the last 7 days prior to the interview day.

Full employment: Each individual work for a period exceed 34 hours in the week and has no intention to change the current job and seek for a second job.

Visible underemployment: It involves laborers who work less than 35 hours a week and wish to work for more hours or looking for a second job.

Invisible underemployment: It involves laborer who work for more than 34 hours a week and wish to work for more hours or looking for a second job or change his job due to the low salary, limited number of working hours, his job is low than his skill or seasonal or temporary.

Employment status: the state of laborer in terms of relation to the job and employer

Main job: The job in which the laborer spend more than half his time.

Unemployment (standard definition): All the individual within work age who didn't work even for an hour during reference week or even as unpaid laborer for the household, those who were ready to work or establish private work during reference week or those who look for a job or try to establish a private work during the four weeks proceed the survey excluding those who were absent during reference week.

Full-time work : when the person work for not less than 6 hours per day.

Part-time work: When the person work for not less than two and half hours or less than 6 hours per day.

Unemployment (languorous definition): All the individual within work age who didn't work even for an hour during reference week or even as unpaid laborer for the household, those who were ready to work or establish private work during reference week excluding those who were absent during this period.

Reason of being unemployed: The reason given by the respondent for not working or wish to work or seek for it, the reason may be the study, home works, aging, handicap, disability or for other reasons.

Dependency ratio: Number of individuals supported by a person in labor force, it can be calculated by dividing total population excluding those in labor force by number of those in labor force.

Current economic activity: The economic commodities or services produced by institutions for the market, exchange or self consumption. The employees who are not involved in any institution, their economic activity is determined based on their occupation.

Main occupation: Type of work the person practiced the day before the interview.

Work actual hours during 7 days proceed the interview: The number of hours in which the person worked during reference period, including work hours and overtime hours.

Job-seeking period: The time period (months and years) that the person spent seeking for a job, includes the period starting from seeking date to the interview date.

Monthly income: The total the person gains from his work during the last month, it includes:

1. Income from employment: The wage or salary the employment or worker (permanent, temporary or trainee) gains in return for working for bothers, may be in-cash or in – kind such as bonuses and overtime wages.
2. Own-account employment income: The in-cash or in-kind revenue the person gains from his own work whether he works a lone or has employees in agriculture, industry, trade, services or other.

Net income: Total income gained from any activity excluding the costs (wages, intermediate consumption costs, interests and direct taxes).

Ownership income: Incomes the persons gain from ownership such as rents, profits, interests and ownership rights.

Transferred incomes: Incomes the persons gain with no exchange for social protection purposes or in return for previous work such as retirement pension or worker pension.. ,etc.

Reference Period

The field work of the first wave started on 16/1/2012 and continued for 15 days distributed on 10 days for field work and 3 for office work. The 1 year reference period for the survey was broken down into (24) waves the work carried out during each wave continued for 15 days. Field staff was organized into teams that each consisted of 3 interviewers and a local supervisor . The survey used 68 teams were distributed by districts in each governorate.

Response Rate

The IHSES reached a total of 25488 households. Number of households refused to response was 305, response rate was 98.6% . The highest interview rates were in Ninevah and Muthanna (100%) while the lowest rates were in Sulaimaniya (92%).

Field visit schedule

A time schedule was prepared to follow up recording the household expenditures and to ensure accurate completion of the four – part questionnaire. Five field visits were scheduled for each household. The schedule covering all tasks- from the first visit, handing over the daily expenditure diary to the household to recovering the diary on the final visit. The table below shows the schedule of visits for collecting, entering, and correcting data. The interviewers delivered the finished questionnaire to be processed.

Training

World Bank carried out a 6-day workshop for main trainees in Beirut at the end of July 2011. In the Central Statistical Organization a training course also carried out in September (10-15) attended by central supervision team and governorates coordinators whereas Kurdistan Region Statistics Office carried out a training course in September (12-15) in Erbil Statistics Directorate attended by statistics directors in KR governorates and survey cadre.

At the beginning of October 2011 a 7- day second workshop was organized by the WB in Beirut to set the survey timetables and train trainers. In 3/12/2012, training and preparing IHESE field staff were launched in 7 training centers in (Ninevah, Kirkuk, Anbar, Baghdad, Wasit, Babil, Basrah). In 20/12/2012 three training centers were opened in Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhouk where training courses were carried out for the 18 governorates field staff. The courses continued for 23 days of which 5 days were allocated for applied training in selected urban and rural areas of different social and economic levels.

Data Entry

Survey administration in cooperation with the World Bank consultants prepared a new plan for data entry and assigned number of IT staff in CSO to follow-up

data entry process in the governorates. Data daily collected by the interviewer were entered by using a new and advanced method, namely Excel program screens. It also provided each interviewer with a lap top to enter data collected from the households to be sent to the data management center via internet .

Data Editing and Processing

To ensure accuracy and consistency, the data were edited at the following stages:

1. Interviewer: Checks all answers on the household questionnaire, confirming that they are clear and correct.
2. Local Supervisor: Checks to make sure that questions has been correctly completed.
3. Statistical analysis: After exporting data files from excel to SPSS , the Statistical Analysis Unit uses program commands to identify irregular or non-logical values in addition to auditing some variables.
4. World Bank consultants in coordination with the CSO data management team: the World Bank technical consultants use additional programs in SPSS and STAT to examine and correct remaining inconsistencies within the data files. The software detects errors by analyzing questionnaire items according to the expected parameter for each variable.