

Social Protection Data on Population at Risk

Marwan Khawaja

Statistics Division
UN-ESCWA

Outline

- Official statistics
 - Household vs. macro data
 - Data on social protection
 - Why?
 - What kind?
 - Data availability (from NSOs)
 - Some challenges -
-

Official statistics –

Subject matter	Unit of Measurement/Analysis
Social Statistics	Household –based; persons
Economic Statistics	Enterprise (economic establishment); macro
Area/sectoral statistics	Area/land based

Focus on household-based data

- Describe help given to **populations at risk** of hardship or in need
 - ..'ways' to protect the vulnerable populations who are unable to provide for themselves for a decent/minimum standard of living...because of ..
 - Illness
 - Age related problems (aged and children)
 - Low income/earning - poverty
 - Adverse family conditions – e.g., widowhood
 - Describe the 'demand' side – for support
-

Three kinds of (population-based) data..SPF

- **Basic needs (diagnosis)**
Affordability of adequate food, clothing and shelter...
Identification of those in need – poverty, or those lacking adequate employment
- **Access to services/facilities**
 - Health; water and sanitation; education; other social services
- **Transfers**
 - How many of the ‘vulnerable’ population receive benefits in cash or kind ? Who’s needy but left out – not covered? Etc..

Basically, coverage data for a particular function and/or SP
scheme

Population-based data – ESCWA countries

- **Census data**

All countries (save Lebanon) have had 1-2 censuses since 1990

Baseline data for current population estimates - projection

Limited data on disability, labor force, & housing conditions

- **Annual labor force surveys**

Most countries (ad hoc in Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen)

Mostly limited to basic indicators – no data on underemployment, wages, work conditions

Modules can be added with minimal costs (e.g., Palestine)

- **Periodic (maternal & child) health surveys**

DHS, Papfam, MICS (& ad hoc survey)

~~No such data from the Gulf – since 1995~~

Population-based data – ESCWA countries

- Expenditure & consumption surveys

Periodic (yearly to 5-years)

Data for calculating poverty lines; consumption patterns

Most countries -

Non-Population-based data – ESCWA countries

- Surveys of health facilities
Available for a few countries
 - Administrative records/registers
Limited data available from clinics, charities, public offices..etc
Better coverage etc..in Gulf countries
 - Neighborhood/Community-level data
Availability of facilities or services
-

But...

- No comparable (across country) data on SP to assess,
 - Extent/Scope of coverage ..and possible extension of coverage
 - Effectiveness of existing SP scheme or policy
 - Consider adding/including SS data on existing national surveys
 - E.g., labor force surveys
-

Issues of comparability re existing data

- **Discrepancies in definitions/concepts**
 - E.g., Unemployment; benefits; poverty line; underemployment
 - **Lack of data**
 - Incomplete series for variables collected in standard surveys
 - No data on some important variables (e.g., income, wages)
 - **Different classifications**
 - Occupation (ISCO vs. Arab league) & Industry
 - Background variables e.g., education, age (grouped)
 - **Survey design**
 - Sampling design
 - Geographic coverage (whole country vs. part – due to wars etc)
 - Population coverage (civilian vs. total; Bedouin)
-

Other issues

- **Budget constraints**
In conducting household surveys in a regular interval
 - **Dissemination of data**
 - Collected survey data are often partially published (Gulf)
 - **Lack of metadata – for some countries**
-

Important ...but lacking ...

- Household panel surveys – follow same households over time..
 - To describe dynamic – in/out of poverty, unemployment, welfare..etc
 - E.g., Panel study of income dynamics (PSID) -1968+; German socio-economic panel (1984+); British household panel survey (1991+) ...
 - Subjective data on services
 - Satisfaction with services received e.g., quality issues
 - KAP questions on needs (e.g., health care; adequate income..etc.)
 - Raw/micro data for (further/in-depth) policy analysis
 - Except from Palestine
-

Thank you!
