

## PARIS21 Secretariat

### International Household Survey Network (IHSN)

DGF 401012-06

### Final Report

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#### BACKGROUND

Since April 2006, the IHSN core program is implemented as a satellite program of the PARIS21 Secretariat at OECD. It is supported by the World Bank MAPS Development Grant Facility (DGF).

A grant of US\$1m was allocated for year 2012 under the Grant Agreement DGF 401012-06. The grant was signed on 26 March 2012, with a closing date on 31 December 2012. The closing date was extended to 31 December 2013. This final progress report is submitted in accordance with the Section 3.1 of the Framework for Cooperation. It covers the full grant period.

Progress and results on this grant have been reported through the required semi-annual reports on 30 June 2012, 31 December 2012, 30 June 2013 and 31 December 2013.

#### GRANT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the grant (as set out in the grant agreement) is to support the core program of the IHSN and its objectives to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of survey data, avoid duplication of data collection activities, improve cost-effectiveness of surveys, and reduce the burden of international survey programs on national statistical systems.

#### DELIVERABLES SUMMARY

Item	Description of Deliverable	% delivered	Comments
1	Updated Central Survey Catalog	Met target	This is on-going with 3,129 surveys available on the IHSN site. See: <a href="http://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog">http://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/catalog</a>
2	DDI Metadata Editor in English, French and Spanish	Met target	NESSTAR now being developed fully with non-licensed version available in English, French and Spanish. See: <a href="http://ihsn.org/home/node/167">http://ihsn.org/home/node/167</a>

3	Version 4.0 of National Data Archive (NADA) in English, French and Spanish	Met target	Launching new versions of the software has been greatly simplified with greater regional expertise being developed. See: <a href="http://ihsn.org/home/software/nada">http://ihsn.org/home/software/nada</a>
4	Statistical Disclosure Risk (SDC) Software	Met target	Version 4.02 released on-line. On-going sensitivity testing being undertaken and training material being developed. Find on-line at: <a href="http://ihsn.org/home/software/disclosure-control-toolbox">http://ihsn.org/home/software/disclosure-control-toolbox</a>
5	Citation catalog on IHSN web site	Met target	See over 10,000 citations at: <a href="http://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/citations">http://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/citations</a>
6	Selected IHSN tools and guidelines translated and available on-line	Met target	See translation of working papers on-line.
7	Survey Management Toolkit 1.1	Below target	These components are still being reviewed and adapted. In addition standard training tools will be developed and will tie-into the toolkit.
8	NSDS guidelines benefitting from IHSN tools and guidelines	Below target	On-going integration and adaption.
9	Upgraded IHSN question bank available on-line	Below target	The new application is currently being revised in light of some necessary changes. Prototype being tested by Ethiopia with changes in approach and technology upcoming. See: <a href="http://ihsn.org/home/node/133">http://ihsn.org/home/node/133</a>
10	On-line database of gender issues in household surveys available on-line	Below target	This is in the final stages and should be available under the DGF 2013.
11	Two additional working papers available on-line	Below target	Currently being finalized
12	Version 2.5 of DDI metadata standard published by the DDI alliance	Met target	See: <a href="http://www.ddialliance.org/Specification/DDI-Codebook/2.5/">http://www.ddialliance.org/Specification/DDI-Codebook/2.5/</a>
13	Upgraded IHSN web site	Met target	Web site development is on-going and will include updated on-line manuals. See: <a href="http://ihsn.org/home/">http://ihsn.org/home/</a>

## DELIVERABLES DETAILS (PRIMARY ACTIVITIES)

### ➤ 1. Updated Central Survey Catalog

As a central component of the IHSN website update, the IHSN Survey Catalog has been updated. The new catalog contains 3,129 surveys including 2,343 with variable-level information. This number is expected to keep growing significantly over the next grants, as new partnerships are being established with data producers. For example, a new collaboration has been initiated with ILO and its regional office in Panama for the documentation and cataloging of labor force surveys.

In addition, the maintenance of the catalog still benefits from multiple partnerships established with data depositors and other organizations like the Asian Development Bank, FAO, World Health Organization, DataFirst at the University of Cape Town, the World Food Programme, IPUMS International at the University of Minnesota, the IN DEPTH network, ICF International (DHS surveys), the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the Economic Research Forum in Egypt, and others. The content of the survey catalogs developed and maintained by ADP participating agencies will also be made visible in the IHSN Central Survey Catalog. This will benefit data users first who will have a complete picture of survey supply, but also these agencies as the traffic generated onto their own catalogs will increase their visibility and utility.

*Note: In addition to the citation catalog an additional output is the development of an IHSN Data deposit tool.*

An on-line data deposit software application has been developed by the IHSN and the World Bank to complement the NADA application and the DDI Metadata Editor. This application was requested by agencies that not only produce but also “acquire” datasets from other producers.

### ➤ 2. Maintenance of the DDI Metadata Editor (IHSN Microdata Management Toolkit, MMT)

The software applications developed by the IHSN are used by an increasing number of users, both at the national level (national statistical offices and line ministries, but also universities and other data centers), and at the international level (including Afristat, the International Health Facility Network, FAO, Global Fund; Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), UNICEF, the World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP), WHO). Future versions of the Metadata Editor will be done by NESSTAR and fully open source without licensing requirements.

### ➤ 3. Development of the IHSN National Data Archive (NADA)

NADA is a DDI-compliant survey cataloging system, developed by the IHSN as an open source software to complement the Microdata Management Toolkit. The software is compliant with the Open Archive Initiative standard (XML). On this grant, further developments have been implemented and the Version 4.0 of NADA was developed and released in June 2013. This new version was very well received and many NADA users have upgraded their data catalogs. On-going feedback from users and the popular software will reinforce future versions. A new user manual will be finalized shortly.

At the end of the grant period, NADA was used by about 51 statistical agencies worldwide to catalog their surveys and provide access to survey meta and microdata. This achievement was made possible with the technical and financial support of the Accelerated Data Program. Several International Organizations also use NADA (the World Bank, WFP, WHO, IHFAN, SPC).

#### ➤ **4. Development of the IHSN microdata anonymization toolbox**

The IHSN has supported the development of *sdcmicro*, a statistical disclosure package developed in R (the open source statistical software) by a team of experts from Statistics Austria / University of Vienna. An improved version of the package has been published (package *sdcmicro* version 4.2.0, and *sdcmicroGUI* version 1.1.1, both available at <http://cran.us.r-project.org/>). Two documents were drafted by the developers of the application to complement the software manual: an *Introduction to microdata statistical disclosure control*, and a *Tutorial*. Comments were provided to the authors. The final version of the documents will be tested in regional workshops. Good progress was also made on the production of a *Practice manual* by the World Bank (based on the application of multiple anonymization methods included in *sdcmicro* on a large number of survey datasets). These various documents will provide the necessary training and reference materials needed to initiate a training and support program in microdata anonymization (under the Accelerated Data Program).

The demand for training and technical support in the area of microdata anonymization remains very high. Several agencies have expressed their intention to disseminate more microdata provided such training and support is provided. This will become an important component of the technical assistance provided by ADP.

#### ➤ **5. Citation Catalog**

There will be ongoing focus on monitoring citations. This is a key indicator for measuring demand for microdata. The citation catalog can be found on the IHSN web site at:

<http://catalog.ihsn.org/index.php/citations>

The site references over 10,000 citations that are linked to the metadata on the IHSN Central Survey Catalog.

#### ➤ **6. Selected IHSN Tools translated and available on-line**

Most outputs are provided as a rule in French and Spanish.

#### ➤ **7. Survey Management Toolkit**

Two components are being developed under this deliverable: Survey budgeting tool and a Survey planning checklist. These were still being compiled and tested and should be available in draft form during the DGF 2013. The Survey Planning module will be presented as case studies. The Budgeting Tool will provide guidelines that harmonize with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model

(GSBPM).

The survey management Toolkit will provide the NSO a package of tools and guidelines required to autonomously undertake the full survey process. Additional emphasis on producing standard training materials will also tie into the Survey Management Toolkit.

#### ➤ **8. NSDS Guidelines benefitting from IHSN tools**

The NSDS guidelines undergo annual reviews. In addition, PARIS21 has released new guidelines on the NSDS 2.0. The IHSN will seek to integrate more of its tools into the NSDS process. For example, the extension of the NADA into the National Statistical System (NSS) can contribute substantially to creating common microdata data and metadata platforms across agencies.

See the primary NSDS guidelines:

- The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.
- The statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.
- Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

Under these principles, it is clear that the promotion of:

- Microdata dissemination policies according to IHSN paper is being integrated.
- Extending the NADA into the National Statistical System and promoting harmonization of collection and documentation practices. The Question Bank will help in providing clear metadata guidelines for collection.
- Anonymization tools will assist in assuring confidentiality.

#### ➤ **9. Development of the IHSN Question Bank**

This project remains a priority at the request of several ADP participating agencies who want to use the application to streamline their statistical harmonization efforts. The prototype version was being pilot tested in Ethiopia. Because of the testing and interest in the tool, the IHSN has initiated the re-development of the Question Bank web application will be made available on the next grant.

#### ➤ **10. Gender issues in household surveys data base**

The work is being undertaken and was being finalized under the DGF 2012. The gender database will use the DDI to classify gender issues by topic and allow researchers to browse these topics. The topics are selected based on relevance to gender analysis in household surveys.

## ➤ 11. Two additional working papers

Improving the reliability and relevance of survey data is one of the objectives of the IHSN. The reliability and relevance of data depends on each and every phase of the survey life cycle. In this component of the IHSN work program, the focus is on questionnaire design. The IHSN 3-steps approach consists of:

- Assessing how (well) selected issues are addressed in existing survey questionnaires. This involves (i) identifying the key stakeholders, (ii) describing the uses they (could) make of the data, and their particular needs in terms of relevance and reliability, (iii) translating these quality criteria into a specific assessment framework, (iv) assessing a collection of survey questionnaires with broad geographic coverage, and (v) reporting on the assessment to provide a broad-based evidence of the need to address issues.
- Producing guidelines and recommendations for improving survey design. These recommendations are intended to feed the IHSN Question Bank.
- Working with survey producers and sponsors to advocate for change.

The assessments initiated over the grant period relate to (i) the measurement of food consumption, and (ii) gender issues. An assessment of the reliability and relevance of household food consumption survey modules, covering 100 countries was conducted. The report will be discussed, finalized and disseminated within the next grant.

## ➤ 12. Contribution to the development of the DDI metadata standard

The IHSN has been a key contributor to the last upgrade of the DDI Codebook metadata standard (upgrade to version 2.5). To further establish the DDI as an international standard, the IHSN is now working with the DDI Alliance (hosted at the University of Michigan) on the ISO certification of the standard. A roadmap has been developed, and experts have been consulted for its implementation. The ISO will provide additional assurance of the sustainability of the efforts made by the IHSN and many other agencies to promote the DDI standard.

To complement this process, the IHSN is working with the United Nations Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) on a proposal to have the DDI standard adopted by the United Nations Statistics Commission as a “preferred standard”. A report that includes this proposal was prepared for a CCSA Task Team on Microdata Dissemination. The final version of this report is expected to be adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the CCSA in March 2014. This could lead to the adoption of the DDI standard as a preferred standard at the 2015 UN Statistics Commission.

## ➤ 13. IHSN Website

New open source collaborative tools are being tested for the IHSN website. In particular, the IHSN has adopted “ReadTheDocs” as a solution to develop on-line manuals, and is testing “OpenAtrium” as a collaboration platform. “ReadTheDocs” has proven to be a particularly effective (and free) solution to create and publish software manuals and technical guidelines. The NADA manual and the *IHSN Quick reference Guide for Survey Archivists* are the first documents to be migrated to the system. The IHSN web site includes links to the ADP site.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### ➤ A. Management Group Meeting

The IHSN Management Group met formally within the margins of the United Nations Statistics Commission in February 2013 in New York and in September 2013 in Rome (hosted by FAO). The next Management Group meeting will take place on the margin of the United Nations Statistics Commission in New York in March 2014.

### ➤ B. Evaluation

Oxford Policy Management Ltd conducted the independent evaluation of ADP and IHSN from January to June 2013. The IHSN Secretariat commented on the draft report of the independent evaluation of the ADP and the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) conducted by Oxford Policy Management Ltd. The final report was submitted on August 30, 2013. The report was shared with IHSN member agencies, and discussed in September 2013 at the IHSN Management Group meeting. The IHSN Management group prepared and circulated a draft response to the evaluators for finalization.

## USE OF THE FUNDS

38 contracts were processed with individual consultants, private companies and public institutions. The terms of reference and the summary of the outputs delivered under each contract are available upon request at the PARIS21 Secretariat. Interim financial reports were submitted on 30 June 2012, 31 December 2012, 30 June 2013 and 31 December 2013. A separate final financial report is submitted with this report.

The grant budget (USD 1,000,000) was used as follows (USD):

Project staff	150,442
Intellectual services	501,401
Missions	198,864
Hardware and software	18,674
Other costs	87,896
Grant administration	42,723
Total expenditure	1,000,000