Introductory Overview
Capacity Building with Government officials

Training Session 2

Child Labor Measurement

Payson Center for International Development and Technology Transfer, Tulane University 2010

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ILO International Conference of Labor Statisticians

- In 2008, the ILO International Conference of Labor Statisticians assembled in Geneva to establish a Child Labor Measurement Framework

- Distinction between ILO legal definitions and statistical definitions whose indicators may at times depart from the more generally termed international definitions

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Child Labor Measurement & National Laws and Regulations

- No uniform legal definition of child labor for universal application

- National statistical offices are encouraged to align ILO statistical concepts and definitions related to child labor as closely as possible with the prevailing national laws and regulations

- Data collected should be comprehensive and their compilation sufficiently detailed, to facilitate international comparability based on ILO concepts and definitions

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

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ILO Approach to Measurement of Child Labor

■ Statistical measurement framework for child labor structured around two main elements:

1. ***Age of the child***

2. ***Productive activities by the child*** including their nature and the conditions under which these are performed, and the duration of engagement by the child in such activities

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

Age of the Child

- **Child:** An individual under the age of 18 years

- **Target Population for Measuring Child Labor:** All persons in the age group from 5 to 17 years, where age is measured as the number of completed years at the child's last birthday

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

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Children in Productive Activities

- Broadest concept relating to the measurement of child labor

- *C*hildren engaged in any activity falling within the general production boundary as defined in the System of National Accounts (SNA) ("general production boundary")

- Comprises ***children in employment*** (economic activity) and ***children in other productive activities*** (unpaid household services)

Child Labor as Defined for Statistical Purposes

- Hazardous work

- Worst forms of child labor other than hazardous work

    WFCL

- Hazardous unpaid household services (if the concept of the "general production boundary" is used)

- Other forms of child labor (depending on the age of the child and weekly hours worked)

    Other child labor

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

Framework for statistical identification of child labour

Age group	General production boundary					
	SNA production				Non-SNA production	
			Worst forms of child labour		(3a) Hazardous unpaid household services[1]	(3b) Other non-SNA production
	(1a) Light work[3]	(1b) Regular work[4]	(2a) Hazardous work	(2b) Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work		
Children below the minimum age specified for light work (for example, 5–11 years)[2]	Employment below the minimum age for light work	Employment below the general minimum working age	Employment in industries and occupations designated as hazardous, or work for long hours and/or at night in industries and occupations not designated as hazardous	Children trafficked for work; forced and bonded child labour; commercial sexual exploitation of children; use of children for illicit activities and armed conflict	Unpaid household services for long hours; involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads; in dangerous locations; etc.	
Children within the age range specified for light work (for example, 12–14 years)[2]						
Children at or above the general minimum working age (for example, 15–17 years)[2]						

[1] (3a) is applicable where the general production boundary is used as the measurement framework for child labour.
[2] Age-group limits may differ across countries depending upon the national circumstances.
[3] Where applicable at the national level.
[4] Children in employment other than those covered under columns (1a), (2a) and (2b).

Denotes activities not considered child labour.

Denotes child labour as defined by the resolution.

Definition: Indicator

- Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement, to reflect the changes connected to an intervention, or to help assess the performance of a development actor.

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Indicator Criteria

1. **Measurable:** *Able to be recorded and analyzed in quantitative or qualitative terms*
2. **Precise:** *Defined the same way by all people*
3. **Consistent:** *Not changing over time so that it always measures the same thing*
4. **Sensitive:** *Changing proportionally in response to actual changes in the condition or item being measured*

(Margoluis/Salafsky,Measures of Success, Island Press)

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Indicator Criteria

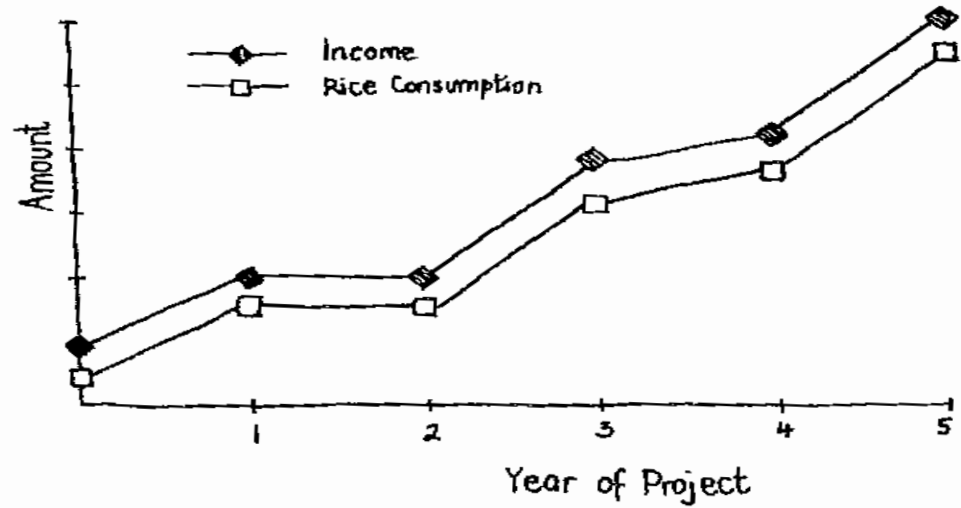1. **Measurable:** *Able to be recorded and analyzed in quantitative or qualitative terms*
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(Margoluis/Salafsky,Measures of Success, Island Press)

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Sensitive?

Rice Consumption as a Sensitive Indicator for Income

Income
Rice Consumption

Amount

Year of Project

Rice Consumption as Non-Sensitive Indicator for Income

Income
Rice Consumption

Amount

Year of Project
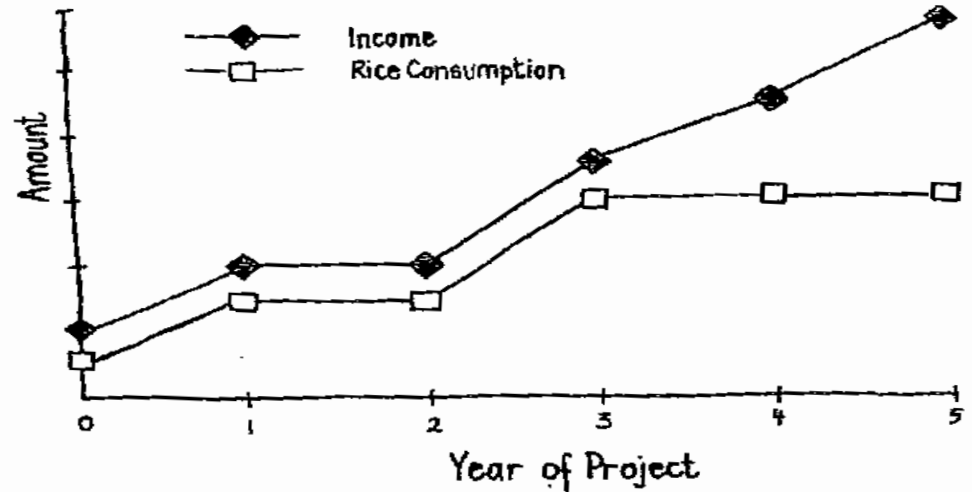
Exercise: How to Measure

- How to measure…

  Age? School attendance? Hazardous work?

- Indicator 1: …………………………………..
- Indicator 2: …………………………………..
- Indicator 3: …………………………………..
- Indicator 4: …………………………………..

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Key Indicators for Child Labor Measurement

- Important items of data collection for the purposes of an informed statistics-based analysis of child labor include:
    - (i) Age and sex
    - (ii) Geographical distribution by major administrative divisions
    - (iii) School attendance status
    - (iv) Engagement in unpaid household services
    - (v) Time spent in activities falling within the SNA production boundary
    - (vi) Location of workplace
    - (vii) Kind of economic activity (industry)
    - (viii) Occupation
    - (ix) Working conditions including impact on children's health and education
    - (x) Socio-economic characteristics of the child's household

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Data Collection Methods

- Data collection methods can be quantitative, qualitative or a combination of both
- Choice of which methods to apply will depend on:
    1. Objectives of the inquiry
    2. Type and level of child labor to be investigated
    3. Levels of accuracy and reporting details required
    4. Availability of time, technical and financial resources
    5. Kind of information to be gathered

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

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Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods

- **Quantitative**
  - Formal surveys
  - Record reviews
  - Randomized experiments
- **Qualitative**
  - Rapid assessments
  - Open ended interviews (key informants, etc.)
  - Focus group discussions
  - Direct observations

(IDRC, p.149)

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Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods (cont.)

- **Quantitative methods**
  - Quantification in collection and analysis of data
  - Testing of theories, deductive
  - Incorporates natural, scientific model
  - Views social reality as an external, objective reality
- **Qualitative methods**
  - Qualification of words/narrative in collection and analysis of data
  - Generation of theories, inducive
  - Emphasizes ways in which individuals interpret their social world
  - Views social reality as a constantly shifting property of individuals' creation

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Quantitative vs. Qualitative Methods (cont.)

- Quantitative Methods
  - Estimating the prevalence of child labor and its distribution by relevant characteristics

- Qualitative Methods
  - Understanding the nature, causes and consequences of child labor
  - Hidden forms of child labor

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(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

ILO Recommended Data Collection Methods

- Where the target population of children is sufficiently large, and the social context does not constrain reporting on children in productive activities, the principal methods for collecting reliable statistics on child labor are ***household-based surveys*** and ***establishment-based surveys***

- ***Baseline surveys*** and ***rapid assessment studies*** also provide useful quantitative and qualitative information on child labor

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Household Surveys

- Provide an effective tool for collecting a wide range of statistics on child labor and estimating its prevalence
- Child labor surveys may have either, or both, of the following two objectives:
  - (i) ***Measurement of the prevalence of child labor***, and of variations in this prevalence by geographical location, household type and characteristics, children's school attendance status, gender, age group, and similar factors
  - (ii***) Investigation of the circumstances, characteristics and consequences of child labor***, such as the types of children engaged in work related activities, the types of work children do, conditions at work, and the impact of work on children's education, health, etc.

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Household Surveys (cont.)

- **_To measure the prevalence of child labor:_**
  - Simple and short questionnaire
  - Sample drawn from the general population
- **_To measure the circumstances, characteristics and consequences of child labor:_**
  - More intensive data collection
  - Sample selected mainly from the population of children in employment
- → Methodologies may be combined, if needed

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

Household Surveys (cont.)

- Address survey questions to the ***most knowledgeable adult member*** of the household (or sometimes the head of household, who is often also the parent or guardian of the working child)

- Sections of the questionnaire may be addressed to the ***children*** themselves, particularly on hazards at the workplace, and the main underlying reason for working

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Establishment Surveys

- Administered at the ***children's workplaces*** (which may include home-based production units)

- Seek to obtain data on the particulars of the production unit and the characteristics of its workforce, with a special focus on children in employment

- Information is sought on children's wages, hours of work, other working conditions and employment benefits, and injuries and illnesses at work, as compared with those of adult workers

- Perceptions of the employer regarding motives for hiring children, and the methods of recruitment, may also be explored

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

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Baseline Surveys

- Aims to identify the ***characteristics and consequences of child labo***r in specific industries and/or areas at different points in time

- Usually ***linked to intervention programs*** to combat child labor, and assists in the identification of project beneficiaries and in monitoring their withdrawal from work over time

- Generates both quantitative and qualitative data, applying a mix of sample survey and participatory approaches

- If a suitable sample frame can be developed, the findings may be extrapolated to the whole industry and/or area surveyed

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

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Rapid Assessments

- For collecting information on children in ***hidden forms of child labor***

- Mainly ***qualitative and descriptive*** and limited to a small geographical area

- Participatory approach, based on observations, discussions and interviews with a variety of key respondents

- Can provide relevant data on the causes, consequences and characteristics of the form of child labor being investigated

- Relatively quickly and inexpensively

- Not applicable if the aim is to estimate the number of children in employment

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

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Supplementary Data Sources

- Data relevant to child labor contained in existing censuses and socio-economic surveys
- Data on children out of school
- Administrative records on violations of national provisions for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor
- Labor inspection reports
- Administrative records about recipient households in income transfer and other social welfare programs

(ILO, Report of the Conference, 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008)

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Census vs. Sampling

- All units in a population vs. a subset of units in the population
- Representative?
- Cost and time implications
- Use of statistical methods

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Sample Selection

- Sample size
- Sampling frame
- Sample selection = sampling
  - Probability sampling
  - Nonprobability sampling

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Sampling Techniques

- Probability sampling (→ quanitative methods)

  - Simple random/systematic sampling
  - Stratified random/systematic sampling
  - Cluster sampling

- Nonprobability sampling (→ qualitative methods)

  - Convenience sampling
  - Quota sampling

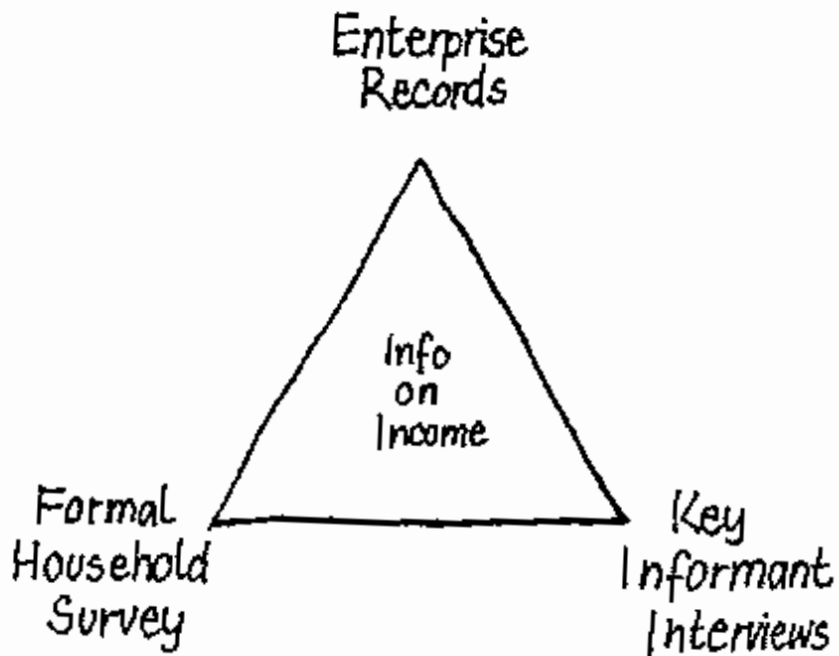Cluster Sampling
Population clusters
Tulane Child Labor Survey 2007

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Selecting Data Collection Method

- Select more than one method to measure an indicator (if possible)

- Criteria for selecting methods:

  1. **Accuracy and Reliability:** *How much error exists in data by using the method? To what degree will results be repeatable?*

  2. **Cost-effectiveness:** *What does the method require in terms of resource investment? Are there cheaper ways to get the same data?*

  3. **Feasibility:** *Does the project team have people who can use the method?*

  4. **Appropriateness:** *Does the method make sense in the context of the project? Is it culturally suitable?*

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(Margoluis/Salafsky,Measures of Success, Island Press)

Data Analysis - Triangulation

Methods

Enterprise Records

Info on Income

Formal Household Survey

Key Informant Interviews

People Consulted

Women's Group

Info on Fuelwood

Village Chief

Monitoring Coordinator

(Margoluis/Salafsky,Measures of Success, Island Press)

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