

LSMS

Living Standards Measurement Study

The World Bank's flagship household survey program since 1980.



What LSMS is

The **Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS)** is the World Bank's flagship household survey program. It focuses on strengthening household survey systems in client countries and on improving the quality of microdata to enhance the formulation of development policies.

Bridging data gaps and helping countries produce better data is at the core of the LSMS mission. Since its inception in the early 1980s, the LSMS has continuously evolved to contribute to methodological innovation and stay at the forefront of new data collection technologies, in order to better respond to the changing data landscape and the shifting needs and priorities of the development community.

The LSMS team is housed in the Data Production and Methods Unit of the World Bank's Development Data Group. LSMS offices are located at the World Bank's headquarters in Washington DC, and at the Center for Development Data (C4D2) in Rome.



What LSMS Does

The program supports countries in producing high-quality, multi-topic household survey data that measure welfare and other key socioeconomic indicators. Widely recognized as being at the forefront of survey methodology, the LSMS conducts cutting-edge research on best practices in survey methods, which includes the integration of the latest technology in survey operations.

The LSMS program has contributed to hundreds of surveys around the world and its publicly available open-access data have been used extensively in socio-economic research and other analytical products to inform investment decisions and policymaking.



Data collection



Measuring and understanding household welfare to shape policies

As a multi-purpose survey collecting data on many dimensions of household and individual wellbeing, LSMS instruments can be used for assessing household welfare, understanding household behavior and evaluating the effect of various government policies on the living conditions of people in low- and middle-income countries.



Integrated in national statistical systems: being implemented with National Statistical Offices.



Multi-purpose: generating information on multiple sectors, for SDG monitoring, policy analysis and research.



Multi-level: collecting information at community, household, individual and plot level.



Sex-disaggregated: collecting data at individual-level in several domains.



Geo-referenced: capturing geo-locations of households and plots.



Computer-assisted: using the latest technologies in data capture and management.



Multi-dimensional: measuring welfare in its many dimensions, collecting information for the measurement of consumption expenditure poverty, income, human capital, basic needs and nutritional outcomes, among others.



Survey methods

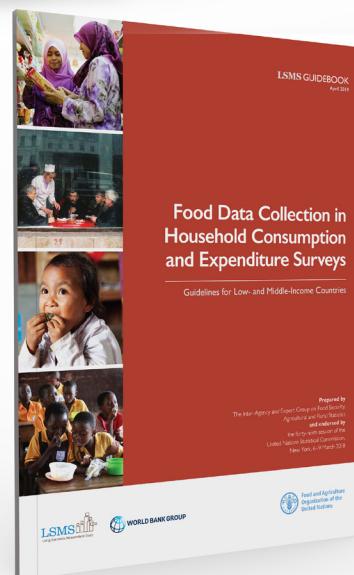
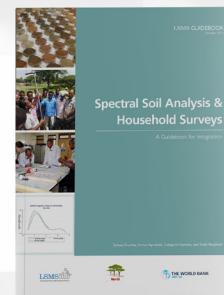
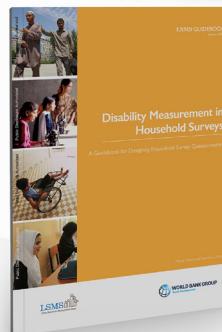
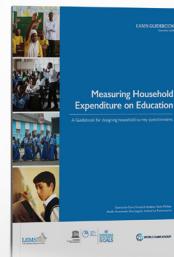
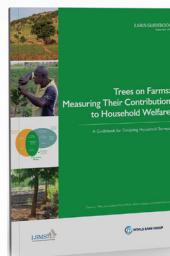


Drawing on decades of implementation experience to define the future of household surveys

One of the distinctive features of the LSMS program is its focus on **methodological development and innovation**.

Through rigorous methodological studies, the LSMS program works on improving the way we measure key constructs and looks at how to increase the added value of household surveys for data validation and improving other data sources. The program ensures its rigorous methodological research effectively incorporates new technologies and innovations in data science into household surveys, in order to provide statistical offices around the world with cost-effective yet high-quality methods that can be implemented at scale.

The LSMS Guidebook series offers information on best practices related to survey design and implementation to provide statistical agencies, researchers, and practitioners with rigorous yet practical guidance on a range of issues related to designing and fielding high-quality household surveys.



Capacity building



Strengthening statistical capacity for better data

Research and analysis



Translating data into policy insights

Open Data



A data goldmine at the reach of a click

The LSMS team is committed to building technical capacity in client countries to strengthen household survey systems and improve the quality and use of microdata. The LSMS training offer includes on-the-job **trainings, workshops and e-learning courses** aimed at both researchers and practitioners focused on key aspects of household survey design, implementation, analysis and dissemination, with a focus on measuring and monitoring of living standards.

LSMS data and analyses are used in a wide range of publications, from government reports to top-tier economics journals. Some of this **policy-relevant research** is carried out directly by LSMS team members and disseminated via peer-review research papers and journal articles. More importantly, the program acts as a catalyst for the work of other researchers, including those from the client countries we work with.

LSMS data are publicly available and open access. All LSMS datasets are available and fully documented in the **World Bank Microdata Catalog** at: <http://microdata.worldbank.org>

Programs & Initiatives



Living Standards Measurement Study Plus (LSMS+)

LSMS+ assists selected low-income countries in collecting self-reported, individual-disaggregated survey data on asset **ownership** and **employment**, following the latest international guidelines.



The C4D2-Training initiative

C4D2-Training initiative works with regional statistical training centers to facilitate the updating of global standards and best practices in household survey design and promote the harmonization of household surveys across countries and regions.



Living Standards Measurement Study Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA)

Established in 2009 with initial funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, LSMS-ISA has transformed the landscape of agricultural data in Sub-Saharan Africa, providing one of the most comprehensive and detailed pictures of agriculture and its role in poverty reduction in the region.



50x2030 Initiative

The 50x2030 Initiative brings together committed partners to bridge the agricultural data gap by transforming country data systems across 50 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America by 2030.

Looking Ahead

Continuing to push the survey methodology frontier

Technological gains in the last decade have changed the face of household survey operations, and today's rapid rate of innovation requires household surveys that continue to evolve. New data sources, such as the use of drones and satellite imagery, remote sensing, and machine learning, have shown potential to fill important data gaps, while the demand for ground data to calibrate and validate estimates based on remotely-sensed data has steadily increased.

Technology is also revolutionizing data collection on the ground: electronic means of data collection (e.g. tablets and mobile phones) provide new opportunities for data quality control and more frequent data capture. The capacity to collect objective data via sensors and other digital devices is expanding the realm of data variables that can be collected. The LSMS program aims, with its partners, to remain at the forefront of modernizing survey data collection.



Contacts and Resources

LSMS email: lsms@worldbank.org

C4D2 email: c4d2@worldbank.org

LSMS website: www.worldbank.org/lsms

Microdata Catalog: <http://microdata.worldbank.org>

World Bank Data site: data.worldbank.org