**Methodology of the Living Conditions Survey 2018-19**

**1. Objective**

The main objective of the Living Conditions Survey (LCS) was to gather information pertaining to quality of life to supplement existing Quality of Life (QoL) indicators. The data collected from the LCS together with information from other surveys and administrative sources will allow SM to :

(i) produce improved QoL statistics,

(ii) make more in depth analysis of poverty on both the income and non-income dimensions, and

(iii) compile some SDG indicators for which data is currently not available.

**2. Sampling methodology**

For LCS 2018-19, about half of the Primary Sampling units (PSUs) surveyed at the 2017 Household Budget Survey (HBS 2017) were covered and within each selected PSU, all 8 households that were surveyed at HBS 2017 were interviewed. Hence, a total of around 3,500 households were surveyed at the LCS 2018-19.

The sampling design for the HBS 2017 was a two stage one. At the first stage, 875 PSUs were selected from a total of 2,855, with probability proportional to size within strata, consisting of groupings of geographical district by Relative Development Index (RDI).

The sampling frame for the second stage was based on a fresh listing exercise of all households within the selected PSUs. The list of households for each PSU was stratified according to Household Size, Religion and Household Expenditure. A systematic random sample of 8 households was then drawn from each selected PSU. Hence, the total sample size for the HBS survey was 7000 households.

To ensure an adequate number of 'low income' households in the sample for the LCS for some separate results on this category of households, all the 2017 selected PSUs with at least one household having an income of less than Rs 10,000 were selected.

**3. Questionnaires**

The survey consisted of two questionnaires namely, Module I: QUALITY OF LIFE and Module II: TIME USE.

(i) Module I consisted of 4 sections as follows:

Section 1 - Demographic and related information comprising age, sex, marital status, educational level, activity status for all members of the household.

Section 2 - The household's standard of living (financial situation, material help) and care of household members (assistance to children, sick, elderly).

Section 3- Health status, eating habits, practice of sports, social, recreational & cultural activities and subjective wellbeing from one selected member aged 16 years or more.

Section 4 – Views on dimensions of life which matters more to the member who answered section 3.

(ii) Module II consisted of a diary with 48 half hour slots for reporting of activities performed during a specific day (24 hours).

**4. Organisation of data collection**

Every month, around 290 Mauritian households in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues were contacted and interviewed to obtain the required data, by a team of 36 Interviewers under the supervision of 10 senior officers (9 Supervisors and 1 Chief Supervisor). All Interviewers and Supervisors were given an intensive training one week prior to the survey period.

On average an interview for filling the questionnaires took about 2 hours per household.

A letter from the Director of Statistics addressed to the head of household explaining the purpose of the survey and inviting them to collaborate was given to the head of each household at the first contact with the household.

In most cases, the interview was conducted in Mauritian Creole.

The Chief Supervisor conducted weekly meetings with Supervisors to discuss general field issues and decide on improved procedures in subsequent months.

**5. Response Rate**

Number of households actually surveyed was 3,208. Hence, response rate worked out to 92%.

However, for households that had moved away/ refused to participate/ or could not be surveyed for some other reason, additional members were selected from the surveyed ones to ensure an adequate number of respondents (individuals) for section 3 of Module I and Module II.

**6. Weighting**

In order to produce estimates at national level, sampling weights were used. 'Sampling weight' is calculated according to the survey design and is attached to each observation in the sample data.

The LCS was based on a two-stage sampling design where the Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were first selected and then households. The weight is the product of the reciprocal of selection probability of PSUs in each stratum, and households in each PSU.

Furthermore, to ensure representativeness of the population by age group and sex, the latest population estimates by 16 age groups and sex were used as 'calibration weights'. Hence, overall weight is equal to sampling weight multiplied by the calibration weight.

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