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# MISSING DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY DATA

## A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Employment

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This document contains the actual survey questions proposed in the paper *A Proposal for Internationally Comparable Indicators of Employment* (Lugo 2007) prepared for the May 2007 Workshop on Missing Dimensions of Poverty Data. The proposal is that these questions – or a refinement of them – might be considered a ‘module’ that could be added to nationally representative individual or household surveys. This module proposes a set of indicators of employment, the first four relating to quality of employment and the last to quantity of employment.

### INDICATORS

<b>Protection:</b>	1. Informal employment
<b>Income:</b>	2. Income from employment (including self-employed earnings)
<b>Safety:</b>	3. Occupational hazard (accidents, illnesses, and workplace exposures)
<b>Time:</b>	4. Under/over employed (prefer to work more/less than at present)
	5. Multiple activities (number of income generating jobs)
<b>Quantity:</b>	6. Discouraged unemployed (prefer to work but have stopped searching)

These following questions are to be included in labour questionnaires wherever appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Lugo (2007) elaborates on the selection of these indicators and questions, and the research questions that could be addressed were these questions adopted into multi-topic individual or household surveys.

## 1. Protection: informal employment<sup>2</sup>

For informal employment, we assume that informal sector enterprise questions are already included in the questionnaire, so that we only need to identify informal jobs not in the informal sector.

Q1. How many people altogether work in the same organisation where you do this work? Number			
Q2. (For employers, own-account workers and contributing family workers) Has the enterprise been already registered? 1. Yes 2. Is in the process of being registered 3. No 4. Do not know 5. Do not want to answer			
Q3. Are you employed temporarily or permanently? 1. Temporarily 2. Permanently			
Q4. When you started this job, did you sign a written contract? 1. Yes 2. No			
Q5. For this work ... (a) Will you receive a retirement pension? Are you entitled to ... (b) paid holidays ? (c) paid sick leave? (d) social security benefits ? (e) free or subsidised medical care? (f) maternity leave?	Yes	No	Do not know

## 2. Income from employment

Asked of self-employed (agriculture and non-agriculture)<sup>3</sup> after soliciting a description of the business:

Q1. In a good month, how much profit does this business/enterprise/ farm normally make (net of costs)? (rupees)
Q2. What is the total value of equipment/stock that is used in the business? (rupees)

Alternatively (or complementarily), the matrix approach aims at computing the quantity and values of inputs and outputs. Questions differ according to the type of activity: non-agriculture (manufacturing, traders and other services) and agriculture. We include the questions in the Appendix to the full paper.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Hussmanns 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Aslam *et al.* 2006 (Pakistan RECOUP 2006).

<sup>4</sup> Ghana GLSS 4 – Part B.

### 3. Occupational safety and health<sup>5</sup>

<b>Accident</b>	
Q1. Have you suffered any accidental injury during the past 12 months? No	
Yes →	Q1.1. Total number of accidents caused by work with more than 24 hours lost time Q1.2. Total accidents caused by work requiring a medical consultation Q1.3. Does the injury had a ... 1. no permanent effect 2. permanent effect, able to work in the same job 3. permanent effect, able to work, not in the same job 4. permanent effect, not able to work at all
<b>Illness</b>	
Q2.1. Have you stopped working during the past 12 months due to any health problems (illness) related to your work? Yes / No	
Q2.2. Have you stopped working during the past 12 months due to any health problems (illness) that was aggravated by your work? Yes / No	
Q2.3. How would you describe this illness?	
1. Upper respiratory disease (eg throat, nose, sinusitis) 2. Lower respiratory disease (eg asthma, TB, pneumonia) 3. Hearing loss 4. Upper limb disorder (neck, shoulder, arm, wrist, hand) 5. Lower limb disorders (eg legs, foot) 6. Other musculoskeletal (back, hip) 7. Skin diseases	8. Eyes strain, eye problems 9. Headaches 10. Other organ damage (liver, kidney) 11. Cardiovascular disease 12. Stress / depression 13. Other
<b>Workplace exposures (main activity)</b>	
Q3. Indicate with a tick if present or true, a cross if not present and '0' if no answer	
1. Inadequate clean water supplies; 2. Toilets inadequate / dirty 3. Tripping hazards; 4. Machine parts unguarded; 5. Work with cutting/ grinding handtools 6. Noise too loud to talk normally; 7. Exposed to extreme heat source	8. Use red or purple triangle chemicals 9. Mineral dusts in workplace 10. Vegetable dusts in workplace 11. Handling heavy loads 12. Uncomfortable work posture 13. Long hours of standing

<sup>5</sup> Loewenson 1997 (Survey of occupational risks and health impacts in the informal sector in Zimbabwe).

#### 4. Time-related under- and over-employment<sup>6</sup>

Q1. What is the main reason for which you worked less than 40 hours? 1. It is your normal schedule 2. The work schedule was reduced due to low production or sales 3. Lack of credit or financing 4. Household work, caring for children 5. Family or personal reasons, sickness or accident 6. There is no more work 7. Other (specify)
Q2. Considering the total number of hours worked last week, would you like to work more hours to obtain additional income? 1. Yes 2. No
Q3. (if the person is working more than 45 hours per week) Considering the total number of hours worked last week, would you like to work fewer hours at the expense of a reduction in income? 1. Yes 2. No

#### 5. Multiple jobs<sup>7</sup>

Following a question on how many hours the person worked in the past week (in all activities):

Q4. During the past 12 months did you do any other work besides 'main occupation'? 1. Yes 2. No (if 'yes') Q5. What kind of work? (from code list). List up to four occupations.
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#### 6. Discouraged Unemployment<sup>8</sup>

Should follow standard question about job search such as "Have you made any effort within the past ... months to find work, established a business or an enterprise?" and answered "No"

Q1. Which is the main reason why you did not look for work? 1. Awaiting reply to earlier enquiries 2. Waiting to start arranged job, business or agricultural 3. Off season in agriculture 4. Have a temporary / occasional work 5. Got tired of searching 6. Thought no work available 7. Other (specify)
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If the respondent answers "5" or "6", then she or he will be considered discouraged unemployed.

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<sup>6</sup> Nicaragua EMNV' 01.

<sup>7</sup> Ghana GLSS.

<sup>8</sup> Nicaragua EMNV' 01 and Ghana GLSS.

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