Regional Course on Statistics on Informality: Informal economy, work and employment
6- 10 July, Chiba, Japan

Session 2.2- Statistical Units in the
Measurement of the Informal Economy

UNITED NATIONS
SIAP
Statistical Institute for
Asia and the Pacific

Arman Bidarbakhtnia
Lecturer, UNSIAP

We will discuss…
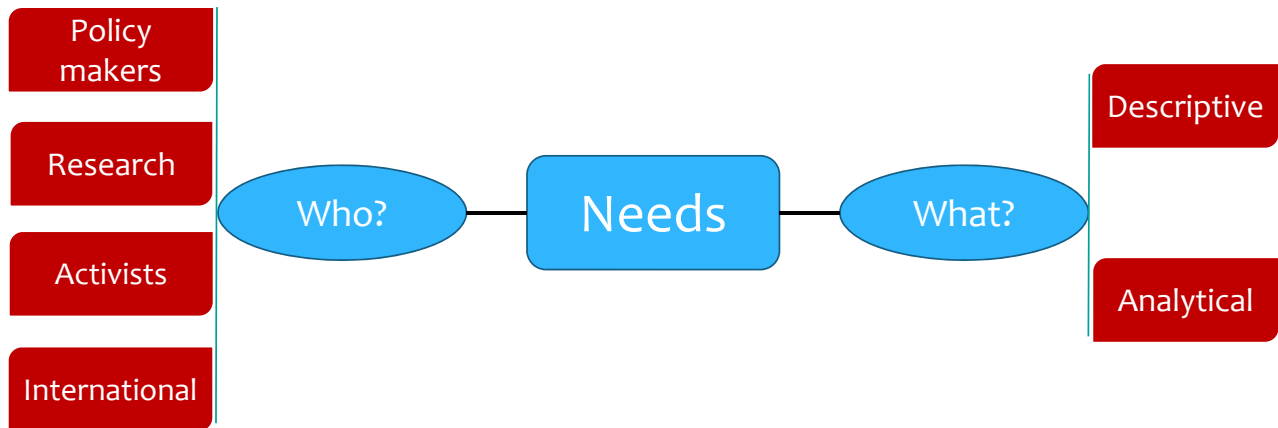
What are data requirements by different users?

What are the statistics recommended?

What/who are the units holding those information?

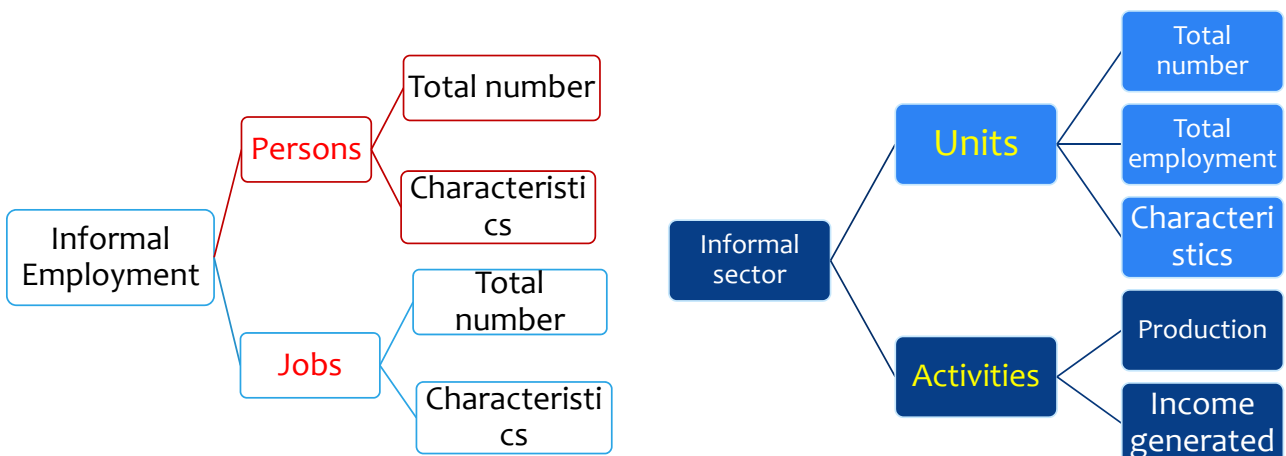What are sources of data?

2

UNITED NATIONS
SIAP
Statistical Institute for
Asia and the Pacific

Data Requirements

Policy makers

Research

Activists

International

Who?

Needs

What?

Descriptive

Analytical

3

Recommended statistics

Total number

Persons

Characteristics

Informal Employment

Total number

Jobs

Characteristics

Units

Total number

Total employment

Characteristics

Informal sector

Production

Activities

Income generated

4

Statistical units?

Sampling units

Units to be selected in the sample

(HHs, establishment,…)

Observational units

Information collected for

(employed persons, jobs …)

Analytical units

Statistics produced for *(Informal jobs, persons, establishments, etc)*

Statistical units?

Persons?	Jobs?	Units?	Activities?

Objectives

Statistical units

Data collection methods

Example?

To analyse working conditions of persons employed in informal sector units

… … … … … ?

… … … … … ?

6

Which data collection method?

The method should…

❖ Provide a good coverage for the desired sampling/observational units

❖ Provide accurate and high quality statistics on desired analytical units

❖ Provide adequate link between statistical units

Sources of data

Censuses

- Population
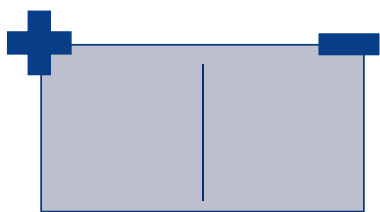- Economic

Surveys

- Household based
- Establishment based
- Mixed surveys

Discussion:

* When analytical unit is informal economic unit, discuss pros and cons for the following choices of sampling units

1. Informal sector entrepreneurs

2. Informal economic units